


FANE 'MODE ONE' HIGH FIDELITY SPEAKER KIT


Incorporating a model $8038^{\prime \prime} 13,000$ Gauss Bass Speaker
with ultra low resonance. P V C ultra low resonance. P.V.C. surround cone. Printed circuit cross-over assembly with ferrite cored coils. Model 303 Pressure Tweeter, Acoustic damping material, Screws, Panels etc., and instructive diagrams, Frequency $\mathbf{8 9 . 9 5}$ post Response $25 \mathbf{~ H z - 2 ~ K H z}$ Impedance 8-15 ohms.

Or Dep. £2-25 \& 9 mthly

## HSC GES MkII 6 ro WATT high quality STEBED AMPLIFEA

 Individual Ganged Controls: Bass, Treble, Volume and Balance. Printed circuit construction employing 10 Transistors plus Diodes. Output rating I.H.F.M. Frequency range $20-20,000 \mathrm{c}$. p.s. Bass Control $\pm 12 \mathrm{db}$ Treble Control $\pm 13 \mathrm{db}$. Selector switch fo P.U. or Tape/Radio. For loudspeaker out-put impedances of 3 to 15 ohms. For put impedances of 3 to 15 ohms. For standard 200-250v. A.C. mains operation. Attractive Black and Silver finished metal fascia plate and matching control knobs. COMPLETE EIT OF PARTS INCLUDING
FULLY WIRED PRINTED CIRCUIT ENd FULLY WIRED PRINTED CIRCUIT
and
IAGRAMS INETRUCTIONS COMPREHENSIVE WIRING DIAGRAMS E INETRUCTIONS $\mathbf{E}|\mid .50$ Carr. Or EACTORY BUILT IN TEAK VENEERED CABINET

## AUDIOTRINE HIGH FIDELITY SPEAKERS

Heavy construction. Lateat high efficiency ceramic magnets.
Plastichsed Cone surround. "D" indicates Treeter Cone providing ertended frequancy range up to 15,000 c.p.a. Impedance 3 or 8-15 ohms. PLEASE 8TATE CEOICE.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \begin{array}{llllllll}
\text { HF102D } & 10^{\circ} & 10 \mathrm{~W} & 88-40 & \text { HF128 } & 12^{\circ} & 15 \mathrm{~F} & 15.76 \\
\text { HF120 } & 12^{\circ} & 15 \mathrm{~W} & 84-60 & \text { HF128D } & 12^{\circ} & 16 \mathrm{~W} & 88.85
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$

FANE 807T HIGH FIDELITY SPEAKER
A full range 8 in .10 watt unit for excellent sound quality, in suitable coil to achieve very low fundamental resonance of $30 \mathrm{c} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{s}$. Tweeter
 PLEARE BTATE IMPEDANCE WHEN ORDERING 13.85 MODEL 803T 8" 15 w. with parasitic Twoeter. $£ 4.95$

R.S.C. BATTERY/MAINS CONVERSION UNITS TYPE BM1. An all-dry battery eliminator. Bize $51 \times 4 i \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. approz. Completely replaces batteries supplying 1.5 v and 90 p to battery radio where A.C. mains 200/250v. 50c/a is available.
COMPLETE KIT $£ 3.25$ ASSEMBLED READY $\mathbf{~} \mathbf{3} \mathbf{3 . 7 5}$

## HIGH FIDELITY LOUDSPEAKER UNITS

Cabineta latest ofyle gatin Teak veneer. Acountically lined or fllied countic damping. Ported whero appropriate. Credit terma evailable. DORCHESTER (Illuatrated) Bize $16 \times 11 \times 9 \mathrm{in}$. appr. Range 45-15,0n0 c.p.8. Rating 8.10 watts. Fitted High fux $13 \times 8 \mathrm{Bin}$. $\mathbf{Y 9 . 4 5}$

Dual cone speaker. Imp. 3 or 15 ohina. Carr. 40 p . MONARCH Size $19 \times 10 \times 9 \mathrm{in}$. approx. Rating 10 watts. Inc. $13 \times 8 \mathrm{in}$. ppeaker with highly flexible p.V.C. cone surround, iong throw volce coil and 10,000 line magnet 8 ohms. Gives smooth realistic sound output.
Se日 'package ofors' for illatiration. 8 ohms. Gives smooth realistic sound output

Carr. 50p

## HI-FI SPEAKER ENCLOSURES MODERN DESIGN

 Teak veneer finish. Acoustically lined. Sizes appror. Carr. 35p. per entJE8 Size $16 \times 11 \times 9$ in. SE8 For optimum performPressurised. Gives pleasing ance with any 8 in. $\mathbf{4} .47$
 $\times 15 \times 9$ in.
SE10 For outstanding results with loin. Hi Fi
spkr. Size $24 \times 15$
$\times 10$ in. P'td. $\mathbf{E 6 . 7 4} \begin{aligned} & \text { Hi-Fi speaker and tweeter } \\ & 25 \times 16 \times 10 \frac{1}{2} \text { in. }\end{aligned}$ response and extended frequency range ensure surprisingly realistic reproduction $\mathbf{1 5 . 9 5} \begin{gathered}\text { Carr } \\ 30 \mathrm{p}\end{gathered}$
[ OR SENIOR 15 WATT INCLUDING HF1 26 15,000 LINE SPEAKER 66.95 carr

## R.S.C. TA6 6 Watt HI-FI AMPLIFIER

200-250y. AC mains operatod. Frequency Response $30-20,000$ c.p.s.
2dB. Harmonic Diatortion $0.3 \%$ at 1,000 c.p.b. Separate Bass anit Treble 'lift and cut' controls. 3 input sockets for Mike, Grans, Radio or Tape. Input selector switch. Output for 3.15 obra spkrs. Mar. sensitivitr 5 mv Output rating I.H.F.M. Fully enclosed enamelled case, $9 \downarrow \times 21 \times 0$ in. Attractive Complato lit of parta with puil wiring diagrams and isatruetions. OR FACTORY BUILT WITH 12 MONTHS' GUARANTEE $£ 10.95$

## NOW IN STOCK! <br> FANE 'CRESCENDO’ SUPER EFFICIENT GROUP/DISCO LOUDSPEAKERS

Send S.A.E. for leaflet on this range of extraordinarily efficient units
including the very latest BASS CRESCENDO '12' 100 Watts. FULL DISCOUNT to Genuine Trade Customers. CARR. FREE.


## MIDGET CLAMPED TYPE $2 \AA \times 2 \| \times 2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$

$250 \mathrm{v}, 60 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v} .2 \mathrm{a}$
$250.0 .250 \mathrm{v}, 60 \mathrm{~mA}$
6.3
PULLY SHROUDED UPRIGHT MOUNTING

$250-0.250 \mathrm{v} .60 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v}-2 \mathrm{a}, 0-5-6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{v} .2 \mathrm{a}$. $\quad 1.40$ $250-0-250 \mathrm{v} .100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{v} .4 \mathrm{a} ., 0-6 \cdot 6-3 \mathrm{v}$. 3 a . $82 \cdot 20$ | $300-0-300 \mathrm{v} .100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{v} .4 \mathrm{a}, 0 \cdot 6 \cdot 6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{v} .3 \mathrm{a}$. |
| :--- |
| $300 \cdot 0 \cdot 300 \mathrm{v}$. | For Mullard $\$ 10$ Amplifer

$350-0-350 \mathrm{v}, 100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v}, 4 \mathrm{a}, 0$, 0.6 .3 v .3 g. $350-0-350 \mathrm{v}, 150 \mathrm{~mA}, 6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{v}, 4 \mathrm{a}, 0-5-6.3 \mathrm{v} .3 \mathrm{a}$. $425-0-425 \mathrm{v} .200 \mathrm{~mA}, 6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{v} .4 \mathrm{a} .$, c.t., 5 v .3 a.
$425-0-425 \mathrm{v} .200 \mathrm{~mA}, 6$ v. $4 \mathrm{a}, 63 \mathrm{v}, 3 \mathrm{a} ., 5 \mathrm{v}$. 3 a ............................................

## R.S.C. MkIII SUPER 30 HIGH FIDELITY STEREO AMPLIFIER

## BUILD AN AMPLIFIER WORIH APPROXIMATEL

DOUBLE THE KIT PRICE INCLUDING CABINET
Only high grade components by leading manufacturers

* Push Button Selector Switching
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- Neon Indicator
* Satin Silver Finish Metal Fascia

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Super 30 Mk . III $\mathbf{4 4 . 9 5}$

For Magnetic or Ceramic Pick-Ups regardless of Price Output (per channel) 15 watts RMS into $8 \Omega$. Frequency Response 7 Hz to 70 KHz $+1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~dB}$.
FACTORY BULLT UNIT INC CABINET with 12 months euar- 638.75
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SELENIUM
REGTIFIERS
F. W. (Bridged) (II 6/12v. D.C. utrut. Max. 1a, 25 p . $8 \mathrm{Ba}, 8 \mathrm{BE}$. $1 \mathrm{a}, 25 \mathrm{p} .9 \mathrm{a}, 8 \mathrm{pp}$
$3 \mathrm{a}, 50 \mathrm{p} .4 \mathrm{a}, 65 \mathrm{p}$. 50p. 4a, 65D.
$6 \mathrm{a}, 80 \mathrm{p}$. SMOOTHING CHOKES
$150 \mathrm{~mA}, 7 \cdot 10 \mathrm{H}, 250$ $\begin{array}{ccc}\Omega 2 & 70 \mathrm{p} & 10 \mathrm{cmA} . \\ 10 \mathrm{~m}, & 200 & \Omega \\ 60 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$ $80 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{H}, 350 \mathrm{~B}$ $50 \mathrm{p}: 60 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{H}$, $400 \Omega 25 \mathrm{p}$.


## 'YORK' HIGH-FIDELITY 3 SPEAKER SYSTEM

 $\star$ Moderate size only $25 \times 14 \times 10$ in. approx. $\mathbf{e}$ esponse $\mathbf{3 0 - 2 0 0 0}$ c.p.s. COMPLETE KIT $\star$ Response 30-20,000 c.p.s Impedance 15 ohms$\star$ Performance comparable with
units costing coasiderably more
Consists of (1) 12 in .15 watt Bass unit with cast chassis, Roll rubber cone surround for ultra low resonance, and ceramic magnet. (2) 3-way quarter section series cross-over system (3) $8 \times 5 i n$, high flux middle range speaker. (4) High efficiency tweeter. (5) Appropriate quantity acoustic damping material. (6) Handsome reak veneered cabinet. 9 monthly payments $£ 2.47$ (Total $£ 26 \cdot 83$ ).



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## Stereo radio from your existing funer.

 from Jermyn to build a stereo decoder module that will convert your existing mono tuner for stereo reception whilst maintaining a high standard of reproduction.

The distortion is very low (typically $0.3 \%$ at 560 mV RMS composite input signal) with 40 dB channel separation.

The stereo switching is automatic and there is a light emitting diode which acts as a stereo beacon.

The kit requires no coil and there are no alignment problems.
Fitting. The mudule requires a 10-16 volt power supply which can nor mally be , ?pped off the existing tuner. The signal input is taken oif hefore the de-emphasis circuit which in practice means disconnecting one, or at the most, two capacitors. Any radio engineer will be able to spot these capacitors, but if you're really stuck send the circuit with a SAE to us and one of our engineers will indicate the out put point. (This is the full extent of our involvement, no hardware please).

Of course, if you have a modern mono tuner with a multiplex output our module simply plugs in.

The outputs go via a screened twin cable to the tuner inputs of your stereo amplifier.
And the cost? $£ 4.90$ for the Kit with $100 \%$ tested integrated circuit.
Also available assembled and aligned. checked and ready for use at $£ 6.90$ (includes 12 month guarantee). Beat that!
To lermyn Tndustries Pleaserush me $\square$ Kit(1), $\square$ made up Stereo decoders. 74 Vestry Estate I enclose cheque/postal order for $£$
Sevenoaks Name
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W. Auredited hy the Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges -

#  other good reasons for buying AMTRON electronic kits 

Apart from the five items Shown above, there are another 195 kits to choose from in the vast AMTRON range of electronic kits.

A few examples of equipment you can construct from AMTRON kits are:

Power supplies, preamplifiers, amplifiers, L.F.instruments, accessories for musical instruments, amateur and radio control transmitters and receivers, battery chargers, electronic car accessories, psychedelic lighting equipment, measuring instruments, tuners, receivers, I.C. digital equipment.

Only 1 st class fully guaranteed components are used -solder is included with every kit.

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Should you experience any difficulty in obtaining AMTRON Kits please contact us direct.

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AMTRON U.K. 4 \& 7 CASTLE STREET HASTINGS SUSSEX TELEPHONE HASTINGS 2875


The PR40 R.F. Preselector is the solid state version of the world famous PR30 which it now supercedes.
it employs Silicon "N" Channel FET (Field Effect Transistor) front end, followed by silicon NPN Broad Band R.F. Amp., and will substantially improve receiver performance over the range $\mathrm{J} \cdot 5$ to $35^{\prime} \mathrm{MHz}$, providing a considerable increase in gain up to an overall average of 30 dB , with improved image rejection and noise ratio.
Supplied complete with co-ax plug (less standard 9 volt PP6 Battery), 12 months Guarantee. $\qquad$ 48-90 Carriage 30 p .


## MULTIBAND-6

SOLID STATE SHORT WAVE RECEIVER KIT

All transistor T.R.F. Recciver tunes 550 KHz to $30 \mathrm{MHz}(540$ to 10 metres) complete coverage-no gaps. Medium waves-Trawlers-Ship/Shore Telephone-All Six Amazeur Bands $160-10$ metres-International Broadcas Hom Australia, Far East, Russia, Hi-Gain FET Regen. Det./AF/AF Module giving full loudspeaker output to any external $2 / 3$ ohm speaker. Receives AM/CW/SSB.
A Quality COOAR-KIT with 12 months Guarantee. No technical knowledge required, simple to build, printed circuit and Pictorial Instruction Manual,
fully detailed step by step.
Complete Kit with 4 Coils (less standard PP6 battery). $\quad$ \&13. 20 Carriage 35p.
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## P.R. 40 <br> SOLID STATE R.F. PRESELECTOR




- The CODAR CR70A is an outstanding general coverage communication receiver, ideal for the keen S.W.L.
It tunes from 540 metres medium through to 10 metres with no gaps. Covers shipping, coastguard and distress frequencies, all six amateur bands $160-10$ metres, International broadcast, Met. stations etc. etc. giving world-wide reception. Exclusive features include Air-spaced CODAR-COIL Hi-"Q"" Aerial input, illuminated Meter and Slide Rule Scale, Two Speed vernier tuning, Switched B.F.O. for CW/SSB signals. Separate outpur for Tape recorder.
Ready to plug in to 200/240 volts A.C. it only needs your aerial and a 2/3 ohm loudspeaker to bring the world to your finger tips. 12 months full guarantee.


## Complete ready built $\mathbf{6 2 7} \cdot \mathbf{5 0}$, Carriage 70p.

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NOTE: These CODAR Receivers meet the B.R.E.M.A. specification for Communication Receivers and are FREE of Purchase Tax. Some portable receivers being advertised as Communication Receivers do not meet these requirements.

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COMPLETE kit including above plus resistors, PC board and box $£ 4.40$
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### 26.12

It's the RT.VC system that screws together to save you pounds! Unisound comprises two superb speakers and an amplifier/record deck plinth-al beautifully finished in simulated teak. The stereo amplifier ( 4 watts per channel into 8 ohms) is based on the famous Mullard Unilex system brought up-to-date by RTVC using intergrated circuits. Turntable is the proven Garrard 2025TC complete with stereo cartridge and tinted acrylic cover. Speakers are big EMI Twin-cone units all ready for mounting in thelr elegant cabinets, which simply need screwing and glueing together. Easy step-by-step instructions. £26. 12 complete plus $\mathbf{£ 1} \cdot \mathbf{4 0}$ packing $+\boldsymbol{£ 1} \cdot \mathbf{4 0}$ post. Diamond Stylus $\mathbf{£ 1} \cdot 25$ extra Stereo headphones with adaptor $£ \notin$ extra. Send for leaflet.
 follow the step-by-step instructions
 comprehensive instructions $50 p$ free with parts. vehicles. It covers the full medlum and long wave bands. It is permeability tuned and sturdily constructed. Output is a full 2.5 watts into an 80 hms speaker. But the Tourist PB will operate into any loudspeaker from 8 to 15 ohms.
Apart from the output stage, which is an intergrated circuit, the only other electronic components that need soldering are some capacitors, resistors, etc. The kit includes a pre-built RF tuner unit, and fully modulised JF stages which are pre-aligned before despatch. As well as electronic components this kit also contains 2 diamond-spun aluminium knobs, elegant matching front panel, dial, washers, screws and wire. The Tourist PB can be mounted in any standard size dash panel and it has an illuminated tuning scale. Chassis size is: $7^{\prime \prime}$ wide, $2^{\prime \prime}$ high and $4 \frac{5^{\prime \prime}}{8^{\prime \prime}}$ deep.

Fully retractable lockable car aerial £1/25 post paid.

PRICE ONLY £7.70 p. and p. 55p Speaker with baffle and fixing strips £1.50 25 p. \& p., post free if bought with the kit. Send for leaflet.


Rellant MkiV
A GOOD QUALITY AMPLIFIER-12 Watts £10.50 (inc. VAT). 20 Watts £ $13 \cdot 50$ (inc. VAT)
*5 Electrically Mixed inputs. *3 Individual Mixing controls. "Separate bass and treble controls common to all 5 inputs. "Mixer employing F.E.T. (Field Effect Transistors). *Solid State Circuitry. *Attractive Styling INPUTS 1. Crystal Mic or Guitar 9mV. 2 Moving coil Mic. or Guitar 8 mV Inputs, 3, 4 \& 5 are suitable for a wide range of medium output equlpment (Gram. Tuner, Monitor, Organ, etc.) All 250 mV sensitivity. Power output: 12/20 watts into 8 ohms. Size approx. $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 6 \times 3 \frac{1}{2}$ ins.

## 12W <br> Version $£ 10 \cdot 50$ <br> 20w $£ 13.50^{\circ 8 .}$ <br> version $£ 13 \cdot 50$ <br> plus $60 p$ <br> p \& D

## SOUND50

50 WATT AMPLIFIER. Output Power: 45 watts R.M.S. (Sine Wave) Frequency Response 3dB points 30 Hz and 18 KHz . Total Distortion: less than $2 \%$ at rated output. Signal to noise ratio: better than 60 dB . Bass Control Range: 13 dB at 60 Hz . Treble Control Range: 12 dB at 10 KHz . Inputs : 4 inputs at 5 mV into 470 K . Each pair of inputs conrotlled by separate volume control. 2 inputs at 200 mV into 470 K . Size: $538 \cdot 51$ $19 \frac{1}{4} \times 10 \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \mathrm{ins}$. Amplifier $£ 31 \cdot 85$ plus
$£ 1 \cdot 50 \mathrm{p}$. and p .


## PE TAPE LINK

 CONSTRUCTORSSuitable 3 speed tape deck, less leads. Cater up to 7ins. spools. Unused but store soiled hence no war58 ranty.
plus £1 $\mathrm{p} \& \mathrm{p}$

$14+14 \mathrm{w}$. r.m.s. 40 Hz to $40 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$. Total distortion at 10 w . at $1 \mathrm{kHz}-0.1 \%$ This is real value for moneyl We have designed 2 systems and the heart of them both is the Viscount 111 amplifier. A unit of great eye appeal with teak finished cabinet. FET's (Field effect, transistors) are incorporated on the input stages, just like top priced units. FET's give you more of the signal you want and almost none of the hiss you don't. Both units have output sockets for headphones and tape recorder.
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The exclusive Duo loudspeaker systems are incomparable for quality within their price range. Large speakers in extremely substantial cabinets. There's a
7hoice of the Duo Il's for the smaller room or the big Duo
IIl's for real bass response.

## *

 Ill's for real bass response.RICES: SYSTEM I
Viscount IIf R 101 amplifier $\quad 624 \cdot 20+61 p$ \& $p$
2 Duo Type 15 speakers
MAG. cartridge plinth \& cover $£ 25.00+\boldsymbol{\ell} .75 p \&$

Available complete for only 652* $+63 \cdot 50 \mathrm{p} \& \mathrm{p}$
PRICES: SYSTEM 2
Vicount R 101 amplifier $\quad £ 24 \cdot 20+£ 1 p \& p$ 2 Duo Type III speakers MAG. cartridge plinth \& total $\quad 684.40$
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## RST

## P. C. BOARDS



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PCB (ain $x$. spacing eompatibl with published front panel \& 1.20
I WATT AMPLIFIER (Nov 1972)
PCE (Mono- 2 zin $\times 3 \mathrm{in}$ ) 60 p
R's, C's, Semiconductors: Stereo Set $\mathbf{6 7 . 7 0}$. Mono Set $\mathbf{0 3 . 9 0}$
PRE-AMPLIFER (Nov 1972)-for use with 8 Watt Amplifier PCB (Storeo-3tin $\times 7$ tin) Specially designed to also hold all Pots either rotary or slider, plus Selector Switch CI. 50
R. $\mathbf{S}_{8}$, Rotary Pots, Selector Switch, Semiconductors

Slider Pots \& Knobs instead of Rotary Pots:
LOUDHAILER\& SIREN (Dec 1972)-PRE-AMP \& SIREN
GENERATOR
Sce of R's, C's, Pot (with switch), Semiconductors $\mathbf{\& 1} \cdot 45$ VIBRASONIC GUITAR PRE-AMP (Sept 1970)

PCB (4in $\times$ 13in) for Mic Pre-Amp, 2-Guitar Pre-amp, Tremulant a Tone Controls. Wah-Wah, Master Volume. Specially desiened to also hold all pots, either Rotary or Slider. 2.25
Set of S/c's, R's, C's, Rotary Pots, LDR, Lamp, Coupling T/former 5lider Pots supply knobs inste
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CARTDIDGS Mono

HI-FI STEREO HEADPHONES Padded ear cushions seal out roam noise. periect coupling impedance 8 ohms frequency range $20-20.000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ 6 ft . cord and standard stereo plug. Only $£ 2.57$. P. \& P. $27 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{P}$.


STEREO HEADPHONE JUNCTION BOX Simple unit connects direct to amplifier and speakers to give attenuated headphone output has 3 position switch to give headphones only, speakers only.
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## ESSENTIAL BOOKS FOR RADIO AMATEURS



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pitals, Public Schools, K.A.F., Army, Hams, etc NEW "DX" RECEIVER
Complete kit-price 88.30 (post \& packing 20 p ). Customer writes: "Australia, India and America at loud volume." - "I am 14 years of age and have logged over 130 stations, plus countlese Amateurs from all over the world.
This kit contains all genuine ahort-wave components, drilled chassis, valve, accessories and full instructions. Ready to assemble, and of course, as all our products-fully guaranteed. Full range of other 8.W. kits, including the famous model despatched K plus (illustrated above). All orders despatched by return. Send now for free deacripEXCITING COMPETITION for Snort.Wave fateners. Send stamped envelope for detaila
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$2 \times 4$ in. packed with semi-conductors and top quality resistors, capacitors, diodes etc. Our price 10 boards 50p (8p). With a guaranteed min. of 35 transistors-data included.

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25 Watt RMS Sine Wave Ideal for small groups, club and studio work. Master volume treble, middle $\&$ bass Ureble, midale a bass Uses heavy duty Celestion

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$V$ A06 Suitablecrystal/ceramic P.U.. Mic., HPA01 $\mathbf{4 3 . 7 2 \quad \text { guitar, radio tuner, vol., treble \& }}$ 30 mv O/P Treble $+22-15 \mathrm{db}$ a 12 KHz . Bass $\pm 18 \mathrm{~dB} 40 \mathrm{~Hz}$

| VA08 $64 \cdot 22$ $\text { Bass }+20$ | As VA06, but with extra middle contral. Treble +28 dB in 18 KHz Middle $+20-15 \mathrm{~dB}$ i" 4 KHz <br> -10 dB (it 40 Hz . Sensitivity 4 mV . |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { SVAO1 } \\ & 69.47 \end{aligned}$ | As VA08 but stereo with bal control. |
| MVAOI <br> \&4.50 $2 m v .+25$ | Suitable for disco. mic., tape input. 2 inputs, with $\forall o l$ \& tone control on each input. Sensitivity dB . 12 KHz to +20 dB o 40 Hz |
| MEVAOI <br> E2-60 | Magnetic Cartridge equalisation Connects to input of VA06 or $\checkmark$ A08 with volume control. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { SIPAM } \\ & E 2 \cdot 40 \\ & +15 \mathrm{~dB} \end{aligned}$ | Master volume and presence control. High treble boost of a 15 KHz . |

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## THIS IS THE FIRST PAGE OFTHE GREAT BI－PAK SECTION

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## NEW COMPONENT PAK BARGAINS

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Paper Comilensers preferre
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| triacs |  |  |  |
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Pak No

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| U (ilias Sub-Min. 2 |  |  | Description Description U 2 B0 Mixed Germanum Tranaistors A F/RF

75) (ermatiun :ond bonded sub- \in. like OA5, OA4740 (iermaniun Transistors like OC81, ACl2860 200114 Sub-Min. Sumous Doder30 sil. planar Trane NJ" like 138Y45A. 2N706

If Sil. Rectifters TOH-HAT 750 ma VITG. RANGE upto $1000 \frac{0.50}{0-50}$

20 Mned Voltages, 1 Watt Zencr Diodes



 U14- 103 Amp Silicon Rectiflers Stud type up to 1000 PI

 UEO $121 \cdot 5 \mathrm{Amp}$ micon Rectifers Top Hat up to 1000 PI

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30 \mathrm{MA} \text { D } \mathrm{T}^{\prime} \text { 's like M Hz Serlea INP Tranintors }
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U2. 20 Germanjum 1 Amp Rectiflers (idM Series up to 300 PIV 0.50

 120 30 Fant Switching Silicon Dinles like IN9/4 Micro-M | 027 | 12 NPN fermanium AF Transiatora TO-1 like AC127 |
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| 1029 | 0.50 | V29-10 1 Am, SCK'R TO-5 can, up to 600 PIV CR81/25-600 is Plastic Silicon Planar Trans. Ni'N 2 Ni 2 a A

20 Sllicon Planar Plastic $\bar{N} P \bar{N}$ Trañ Low Noise Athe $2 \mathbf{N} 3707 \quad 0.50$
 U33 15 Plastic Case 1 Amp Silicon Rectifiers IN 4000 Beries U34 30 Bilicon PNP Alley Trans. TO-5 BCYE6 $28302 /$ $\overleftarrow{1135} 25$ silicon Planar Translators PNP TO.18 2 N 2906
 U37 30 Silicon Alloy Translators so-2 PNP OC200, 28322 $138{ }^{2} 0 \mathrm{~F}^{2} \mathrm{nt}$ Sultching Silleon Trans. NTN 400 MHz 2 N 3011
 U40 10 Dual Trannistors 6 lead To-5 2 N20bo

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## Pak No, Q1 20 Red spot transiators 1wP

Q2 $1 f$ White spot R.F. transistors PN $\begin{array}{lrl}\text { Q2 } & 193 & \text { White spot R.F゙. transi } \\ \text { Q3 } & 4 & \text { OC } 77 \text { type tranisistors }\end{array}$

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GETB80 low noise Germanlun

## Q16 2 RET880

| 5 NPN |  |
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Q20 4 OC 44 Germanium tranistors AQ21 4 ACI27 NPN Germanlum transistorQ22 20 NKT transistors A.F. IL.F. codedQ23 10 OA 202 sllicon diodes sub-mia.
Q24 8 OA 81 diodesQ24 8 OA 81 difodes

Q25 15 IN914 Silicon diodes 75 PIV.... 0. 50

## Q26 8 O.495 (iermaniun diotes sub-min

Q27 2 10A PIV silleon rectiners Is 425 F .
Q28 2 silicon power rectiflers BYZ 13
Q29 4 Silicon transistors $2 \times 2$ B 696
Q30 7 Rilicon switeh tranalstors 2 N706
Q31 6 Ritlcon switch transistors 2NTOB
Q32 3 PNP silicon transistors $2 \times 2$ Ni13i
Q33 3 Siltcon NPN transistors 2 Ni711.
Q35 500 MHz (codle P397). . 3 ........
Q38 $7 \begin{aligned} & 1 \times 2 \mathrm{~N} 2905 \\ & 2 \mathrm{~N} 3 \mathrm{ff} 46 \mathrm{TO}-18 \text { plastic } 300 \mathrm{MHzNPN}\end{aligned}$
 Q38 7 NPN translstors $4 \times 2$ N3703, 3

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2 \mathrm{~N} 3702
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The MK Slide Itule, designed to simplify Elec tronfe calculations features the following scales:Calculation of $\mathrm{L}, \mathrm{C}$ and fo of Tuned Circuits. Reactance and Self Inductance. Area of Circlea Welame of Cylinders. Resistance of Conductors Welght of Conductors. Decihet Calculations. Anigle Functions. Natural Logs and 'e' Functlons and Equare Roots. Conversion of kw, Cubing i must for every electronic engineer and enthusd ast. Size: $2 \mathrm{~cm} \times 4 \mathrm{~cm}$. Complete with case and Instructions. $\quad$ Price each: $23 \cdot 35$

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| 2N3819 | ${ }_{\text {350 }}^{35}$ |  | ${ }^{50 \mathrm{p}}$ |
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## ELECTRO SPARES

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Featuring a rugged class A driver stage, this module wlll run from all our mixers, etc., and most other makes of mixer It delivers 120 watts into an eight ohm load and employs 4 T03 can (115 watt) output transistors.
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Handiling the total of 3000 watt ( 3 kw ) this unit is unique for its price in that not only bass, middle and treble but also master controls are provided. Two amplifier sockets ellminate the need for spllt leads efc. Supplied In tough white steel case with a blue hooded cover. Fully guaranteed.

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## SAXON STEREO

 CONTROL UNITTwo decks, and full headphone monitoring. The unit is mains operated and measures $174^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{\prime} \times 4^{\prime \prime}$ deep and is finlshed with a smart white on black tacia. The controls are: Left/Right deck fader, volume, bass, treble, Headphone Selector and volume, Microphont volume, bass, treble, mains on/oft AND IS COM. PARABLE TO UNITS AT OVER TWICE TME PRICE, (N.B.-Stereo only has mic Input.)

## COMPLETE AMPLIFIERS

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## The Buyer and VAT

During these last few weeks before Value Added Tax takes effect, readers will be contemplating whether to buy now or wait üntil after April 1st. It will undoubtedly pay to wait on such items as domestic receivers, some $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ equipment and electrical goods, but component suppliers are being hard pressed to meet demand before the infliction of VAT.
One way of circumventing purchase tax has been to supply equipment in kit form, but these items in any form will be liable for VAT at one common percentage rate, since VAT is a tax on the basic purchase price or charge for service.
We would expect that all suppliers will make it quite clear to all customers, at the trading premises and through advertisements, whether quoted prices include VAT. The basic retail price should remain the same as now. Whatever you pay for goods or services from April 1st, you should not be paying any purchase tax or selective employment tax levies; you should be paying VAT on top of the normal retail price, based on the Chancellor's Budget announcement on March 6th.

Kit and component prices should not be raised before April 1st and manufactured goods subject to purchase tax of more than $15 \%$ should be noticeably reduced after April 1st.
Shopkeepers and other traders are not legally bound to show the amount of VAT in cash transactions; neither will they necessarily show special "tax invoices" for retail sales, but it is worth remembering that if you purchase at a cut price rate, the VAT charged will be correspondingly lower. Goods obtained by hire purchase or credit agreements will be subject to tax at the current rate at the time when transaction documents are signed. Interest rates on these terms are not taxable. Private sales between individuals do not attract VAT because neither party is defined as a "taxable person", unless the seller is a trader required to register with H.M. Customs and Excise.

Our advice to readers who are thinking of buying goods by mail order during March is to determine first whether purchase tax is chargeable; if it is then wait until April. Items not subject to purchase tax (such as components and secondhand or used goods) should be ordered early. If of substantial value, send your order by P.O. "Recorded Delivery" and keep the counterfoil of your Postal Order, Money Order, or cheque.

You should be prepared for a VAT levy on charges for packing service but not for postage.
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THE MAY ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON APRIL 6th

[^0]
# NEWS... 

## by Colin Riches

## VAT

To the best of our knowledge, the prices quoted in this issue were correct at the time of going to press.

From April 1st 1973, there will be no purchase tax but a large number of goods will carry Value Added Tax. For further details, see our Leader article.

## Tulip Time Rally

The 1973 "Tulip-Time" mobile rally will be held on Sunday May 6th at Surfleet, 4 miles north of Spalding on the Al6.

The Spalding and District Amateur Radio Society will also be operating a Special Activity station, GB3STF on 12th-13th May from The Grammar School, Priory Road, Spalding, in connection with the 1973 Tulip Festival. Operation will be on s.s.b./c.w. on all bands $160-10 \mathrm{~m}$. with a.m. on 2 m . All contacts will be confirmed by special QSL cards.

Of interest to "Going Back" fans-the Wireless Preservation Society will have an exhibition of vintage radio on show to the public. I hope to be able to publish further details later.

RSGB "Jubilee Year" President


Pholograph by P. M. Fletcher.
This picture shows Dr. J. A. Saxton, D.Sc., PhD, CEng, FIEE, FInstP, the new President of the RSGB. On the left of the picture is Swedish Amateur Lt. Col. Per Anders Kinman, SM5ZD, who received the Calcutta Silver Key award. Sir John Eden, the P.M.G. is on the right.

In his address, Dr. Saxton said he felt very proud that he had been chosen as President of the RSGB for its Diamond Jubilee Year. He also said that he was extremely delighted that Sir John had been able to attend and that all there were greatly honoured by his presence.

Dr. Saxton went on to say that the Society would continue to do all in its power to continue to deserve the Ministry's support.

Per Anders Kinman has been made an Honoury Vice President of the RSGB in recognition of his outstanding service with the IARU Region 1 in which he has served for many years.

The Calcutta Key he received was first presented 20 years ago and it has been awarded annually by the RSGB to the person they feel has made, in any one year, the most significant contribution to international friendship and goodwill through the medium of Amateur radio.

## The Buyer and VAT

continued from previous page
If you order from a current catalogue or advertisement after April 1st, you should add the VAT percentage rate to the basic retail price shown. Then add the estimated or stated charge for postage and packing. If a service is chargeable, such as equipment repair or consultation, VAT will be levied at the standard rate. Trading in secondhand and used goods will also be taxable under VAT.

Finally, good news for P.W. readers: newspapers and magazines will be "zero-rated", which means that no VAT is chargeable on these. Transactions of any kind in the U.K. for the direct exportation of goods and services are exempt from VAT.

M. A. COLWELL-Editor.

## Feb P.W. Cover

Many enquiries have been received for information on the book and $\log$ book shown on the front cover of the February issue of $P W$. Both can be obtained from the Radio Society of Great Britain, 35 Doughty Street, London, W.C.l. "How to Listen to the World" costs $£ 2$ post paid. The $\log$ book shown is intended for transmitting Amateurs and costs 60 p post paid but another one, intended for listeners, is available at $45 p$ post paid.

## Cordless Iron

This cordless soldering iron comes from the U.S.A. It is completely portable needing no mains power for operation. It has its own power supply which is automatically charged from the stand which itself is connected to the mains. There is a small light near the tip which is very useful for seeing exactly where you are applying heat.

The iron heats up in under 5 seconds and has an "indestructible" iron-plated bit. It costs $£ 9 \cdot 25$ complete with charging stand and fine bit. A heavy-duty bit is also available.

The exclusive distributors in Great Britain are Pact International Electromics Ltd., P.O. Box 19, Royston, Herts, SG8 5HH.


## Sonex 1973

The technical author and writer Donald Aldous will be heading a small team to organise the Special Features at "Sonex '73".

Two recital/lecture sessions will be presented each day at the Exhibition's new venue the Excelsior Hotel, London Airport, Heathrow.

Speakers will include Bert Webb, who will lecture on pickups, arms and turntables and Kenneth Shearer, speaking on listening room acoustics.

There will also be a lecture on tape cassettes and an examination of current loudspeakers and trends.

Sonex '73 will run from Friday, March 30th to Sunday, April 1st, inclusive.

## Sound '73

"Sound ' 73 '" is the exhibition run by the Association of Public Address Engineers. New P.A. equipment and new techniques in the public address and allied fields will be on show.
As in past years, there will be a lecture programme held in the hotel's "City Room". John Maunder from Shure Electronics will give a lecture and demonstration on microphones on Tuesday, 13th March at 14.30 hrs .
Mike Beville from Audio and Design Recordings Ltd. will lecture on Components and Limiters (Wednesday at 14.30 hrs .)
On Thursday March 15th at 10.30 hrs , a member of the Hornsey College of Art will talk on Industrial design of Public Address Equipment.
Venue will be the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel, March 13-15, from $10.00-18.00 \mathrm{hrs}$.

## Jermyn Inverters

Jermyn Distribution market two inverters, both giving an output of 250 V . Input for the 150 W version is 12 V and for the 300 W type, 24 V .
A feature of the design enables these inverters to charge the $12 / 24 \mathrm{~V}$ batteries up to 10A when plugged into a power socket.
If the mains supply fails, the inverter automatically switches to its "invert mode" providing 240 V emergency power immediately.
Should the unit be accidentally overloaded its drive is so adjusted, that the output voltage falls completely, switching the


## I.E.E. Conferences

The following new conferences to be held in 1973 and 1974 are being organised by the Institution of Electrical Engineers.
"Electrical Signals from the Brain" 27-30 August 1973-in Oxford.
"Symposium on Electromagnetic Wave Theory" 8-12 July 1974-in London.
Further details of the conferences mentioned above are available from the Conference Depart. ment, IEE, Savoy Place. London WC2R 0BL.

## De-soldering Unit

In the February issue we mentioned the Litesold De-Soldering Unit and a misprint stated the price at $£ \cdot 75$. This should have read $£ 2 \cdot 75$. Apologies to Light Soldering Developments and any readers that may have been inconvenienced.
unit off, eliminating any problems.
An internal 15A fuse blows should the battery leads be connected wrongly. Indicator lights illuminate to show whether the unit is charging a battery or providing a 250 V 50 Hz output.

Both types of inverter can be obtained in kit form or already built. The kit for 150 W costs $£ 25$ (£29 built) and 300W £34 (£39 built). Jermyn Distribution, Vestry Estate. Semenoaks. Kent.


## improving UHF ralio A.N.AINSLIE

VHF radio provides a most useful signal source for any hi-fi enthusiast and, despite the 15 kHz frequency limits, the live BBC broadicasts are certainly up to the standards of the finest records.
The advantages are numerous-being a nonmechanical system the distortion is very low and the self-generated noise is also very low, the result being a large dynamic range and the possibility of encoding two channels on a single signal. This, plus the excellent BBC technique, makes f.m. radio an invaluable source of material. Unfortunately there are several difficulties in securing top quality f.m.. regardless of the equipment used.

## SIGNAL-TO-NOISE

Referring to Fig. 1, it can be seen that the performance of a receiver depends on the strength of the signal applied to the aerial socket of the receiver. The mono signal-to-noise ratio assumes an optimum value (usually 50 or 60 dB ) with only a few $\mu \mathrm{V}$ input-even on cheap tuners. The signal-tonoise performance does not improve so rapidly on stereo, however, and in many cases could be improved on even with inputs in the region of a few hundred "V-hence the increase in noise on stereo


First of the two VHF amplifiers described in the article. This one uses field-effect transistors.
in most situations. A person who gets no increase in noise is indeed most fortunate and need read no further!
As regards crosstalk and distortion, these parameters usually reach optimum values with fairly small inputs and usually there is not much improvement to be had by an increase in the signal.


Fig. 1: Graphs comparing receiver performance with the input signal level.
Very few people are fortunate enough to be able to receive "near perfect" stereo without a large aerial, loft or roof mounted. A large aerial, besides having the necessary gain usually has the advantage that it is highly directional and eliminates multipath distortion from reflected signals. In many situations, a reasonably large aerial, three or more elements, carefully sited, and with a low loss feeder gives good stereo but perhaps not of the very highest quality.

The major downfall in domestic stereo reception is that of "stereo" noise-perhaps not excessive but sufficient to mar an otherwise excellent signal. The obvious way to reduce this noise is to increase the signal feeding the tuner by an "aerial amplifier". At present in this discussion we must assume that the amplifier be perfect, having gain but generating no noise itself.

## OTHER NOISE

At this point many readers may well be wondering about the other forms of noise, thermostats, car ignition and other spurious signals. These signals
are picked up by the aerial and sometimes, even, by the feeder, and consequently will be amplified, together with the f.m. signal, by our "ideal" amplifier, which we are using to combat stereo noise. This brings us to the last important parameter of f.m. receivers, amplitude modulation limiting.

The "ideal" f.m. tuner is designed to respond to f.m. only and a.m. signals are rejected to an infinite degree. Unfortunately, no receiver is perfect and some degree of sensitivity to a.m. is unavoidable.

The a.m. limiting of the receiver improves with increasing signal input, as seen from Fig. 1, so that increasing the signal and spurious a.m. together actually reduces the level of audible interference. Unfortunately, when the receiver is switched to receive a stereo transmission, the stereo decoder in the receiver is actually only sensitive to amplitude modulation of the stereo subcarrier. In the decoder some measure of a.g.c. is applied to the subcarrier amplifier and this maintains a constant level of stereo interference from an a.m. signal regardless of the actual input voltage to the tuner.

It can therefore be seen that whilst increasing the tuner input with an "ideal" amplifier, the "stereo" interference level remains substantially constant whilst the "mono" component of the audible interference has been reduced by virtue of the amplitude limiting of the f.m. discriminator.

## AERIALS

Earlier in this discussion, we talked of elaborate and efficient aerial systems but the previous discussion on aerial signal amplification implies that, with a good amplifier, an aerial providing only a minimal "clean" signal can be used to run an f.m. tuner with a high degree of success.

Unfortunately, some tuners are not so sensitive as others and sometimes require millivolts to function at their best. This means considerable amplification of the few tens of microvolts coming from a rather poor aerial!
The better tuners nowadays use f.e.t.'s in the input circuits to keep noise to a minimum and to keep cross modulation low; so any proposed amplifier should have at least as good a performance as the front end of the tuner.

This is very demanding when tuners such as Sony, Radford and Fisher are considered, but it is possible to improve these tuners on a very poor signal by a remarkable degree.


Fig. 2: Circuit of the amplifier using two f.e.t.'s.

To design an amplifier with a front-end comparable to the best tuners use has to made of f.e.t. devices which possess the best noise properties of all the common solid state devices presently available and are responsible for the excellent performance of the best tuners.


Fig. 3: Details of simple transformer to match balanced $400 \Omega$ feeder to $75 \Omega$ coaxial feeder.

The design chosen for the amplifiers in this article is not often used with solid state devices but was once very common with valve Band III television tuners. The amplifier is a cascode configuration giving reasonable gain with very low noise and good cross modulation.

The input to the amplifier. Fig. 2, is $75 \Omega$ co-axial feeder so Fig. 3 shows a transformer that can be constructed from a small ferrite bead for $400 \Omega$ balanced feeder.

## THE PCB

The amplifier can be very casily built on a single piece of printed circuit $4^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{\prime \prime}$ and it is recommended that fibreglass board be used.

To etch the required print design as shown in Fig. 4 (full size), the diagram is traced on to the copper side of the print with carbon paper and the marked areas painted in with high quality enamel. When the paint is dry, the print is immersed in the etching solution and agitated until completely etched (only paint and base material can be seen). The etching solution can be ferric chloride solution but a useful alternative is "Liquor-Ferri Perchloridi Fort" which is obtainable from chemists and should be used undiluted. Rub the copper surface of the board with "Ajax" or similar scourer before painting; to ensure a clean surface.

The enamel paint can be removed with paint stripper once the etching is complete and the board washed and cleaned with wire-wool. The holes for the components should be drilled with a ${ }^{\prime z} z_{z}$ drill, preferably in a wheel brace.
Construction is straightforward except that the f.e.t.'s should be left until last and soldered in with the iron disconnected from the mains-surprisingly little voltage will break down the gate junction.
The coils, Fig. 5, are wound on the formers which are located on the board and stuck with Araldite. The 30 pF variable capacitors must be connected so that the rotor is connected to the earth line. The author used 30 pF Philips, beehive trimmers mounted



T859

Fig. 5: Winding information for L1 and L2.

## components list

```
FET AMPLIFIER
Resistors
    R1 100k\Omega R2 100k\Omega 
Capacitors
\begin{tabular}{llll} 
C1 & \(5 n \mathrm{nF} 400 \mathrm{~V}\) & \(\mathrm{C5}\) & 5 nF 12 V \\
C & 10 nF 12 V & \(\mathrm{C6}\) & 5 nF 12 V \\
C 3 & 30 pF Trimmer & C7 & 30 pF Trimmer \\
C4 & 680 pF 12 V & &
\end{tabular}
```


## Miscellaneous

```
Tr1-Tr2, 2N3819. On-off switch. 12V battery. Co-axial sockets (2). PCB, see text. Coil formers.
```


## BF200 AMPLIFIER

## Resistors



## Capacitors

```
\begin{tabular}{lll} 
C1 & 1 nF 400 V & C6 \\
C2 & 30 pF Trimmer Trimmer \\
C3 & 10 nF 12 V & C7 \\
C4 & 680 pF 12 V & C8 \\
C5 & 680 pF 12 V \\
C5 & 1 nF Feed-through & C9 1 nF Feed -through \\
& C10 30 pF Trimmer
\end{tabular}
```

Miscellaneous
Tr1-Tr2, BF200. On-off switch. 12 V battery. Co-axial sockets (2). PCB, see text. Coil formers.

## POWER SUPPLY <br> Capacitors

 C1 100 nF 1 kV C3 $2000 \mu \mathrm{~F} 10 \mathrm{~V}$ C5 100 nF 12 V C2 $2000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 10V C4 $1000 \mu$ F 15V
## Miscellaneous

R1, $10 \Omega \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W} 5 \%$ D1-D2, 1N4002. D3, 12 V zener 2 W , mounted on aluminium $2^{\prime \prime} \times 1^{\prime \prime}$ minimum. T1, 8 V bell transformer. Fuse, 1A. On-off DP mains switch. LP1, 3.5 V 20 mA for FET amp +2 stages or 3.5 V 40 mA for FET amp +4 stages.

Fig. 4 : Printed circuit board, for the circuit of Fig. 2, shown actual size.
on the copper side of the board. The resistors should be small low noise types and the capacitors need only be low working voltage.

The completed amplifier should be screened by placing tin plate at the position indicated and soldered to the positive line as support.

The amplifier is mounted in a small wooden box, measuring approx. $4^{\prime \prime}$ cube internally, covered inside with tin foil, which is connected to the positive supply line. A front panel can be made from a piece of double-sided copper board with the input and output sockets and the on/off switch. The printed board is soldered to the front panel by the positive line, so earthing the front panel.

With a 12 V battery connected, the output is fed to the tuner and the input is fed by an "inefficient" aerial, in most cases a short piece of wire.

With the amplifier on, the tuner is switched to the local stereo station and the tuning capacitors C3 and C7 set midway. The cores in the coils (Ll and L2) are then adjusted to give the strongest signal, best observed on a tuning meter or audibly by judging least noise.

The amplifier is then assembled in the case and the capacitors C3 and C7 tuned to give the best signal. The tuning will be sharp and critical, so care should be taken when adjusting.

The amplifier, when connected between the proper aerial and tuner, should have sufficient gain to overcome most of the tuner noise, without introducing significant noise itself. When used on weak local radio stations, the improvement will be very marked, especially in mono. Unfortunately, this usually requires the amplifier to be re-tuned to the local channels. However, connecting $27 \Omega$ resistors across L1 and L2 will broaden the bandwidth considerably, enabling the amplifier to be used over a number of channels.

## BF200 AMPLIFIER

However, for many of the "poorer" tuners, this amplifier will still not be good enough to fully drive the tuner on a moderate signal. For optimum stereo in such cases two of the amplifiers could be


Fig. 6: Circuit of the second amplifier, using BF200 transistors.


Fig. 8. Method of mounting feed-ihrough capacilors.


Fig. 7: Illustralion, actual size, of the printed circuit board for the BF200 amplifier.

1861
connected in series. The price of f.e.t.'s, however, makes this uneconomical and ordinary low-noise silicon transistors used after the f.e.t.'s work very well. The proposed amplifier, Fig. 6, is two stages of a conventional r.f. amplifier design. Fig. 7 shows a full size print layout for two stages, although for additional gain or bandwidth more stages can be used, although greater than five would be difficult to keep stable.

The board is etched in the same manner as before and a similar front panel and box are prepared. Alignment is the same, tuning the coils and finishing with the capacitors.

The transistors specified are BF200 and these should be used for at least the first two stages to keep the noise level down; after this such transistors as 2 N 706 work very well. An alternative for the BF200 is BF180 or BF 181.

Fig. 8 shows how C.5 and C9 are constructed with 1000 pF feed-through capacitors. L4 is made by wrapping a few turns of 36 s .w.g. d.c.c. copper wire round a ferrite bead. Fig. 9 gives the winding information for L,1, 1,2 and 1,3 .

The two amplifiers just described will enable good stereo to be obtained from a mediocre signal without the need for a "fancy" tuner. The improvement that can be expected depends greatly on the individual circumstances. The author has used the amplifiers with a Sony ST5100 tuner and a poor aerial and found the results almost as good as when a proper aerial was correctly installed on the roof. The cost of a pair of amplifiers is comparable to a decent


Note:
L1 L2\& L3 wound
on $\frac{11}{4}$ Dia formers.
L1 use 22 SWG
copper wire. L2 \& L3 use 18 SWG copper wire.

TB63
Fig. 9: (above) Details of the three coils shown in Fig. 6. In the photograph (below) the second amplifier board is shown soldered to the front panel consisting of double-sided p.c.b.

aerial less downlead and fitting, so financially it is a viable proposition, although not a substitute for a first class aerial.

In order to split one signal to run several outlets and obtain maximum signal at each of the outlets, a star-splitter is used. This arrangement provides correct impedance matching throughout the system.

Figure 10 shows the circuit of a star-splitter. The value of the resistors $\mathbf{R}$ depends upon the impedance of the feeders ( Z ) usually $75 \Omega$, and on the number of outlets ( $n$ ) which can be as many as required.


Fig. 10: Circuit of star-sp/itter enabling several outputs to be obtained from a single input.

The relationship is:- $R=Z(n-1) / n+1$. For example, for a splitter for a $75 \Omega$ system with two outputs the resistors to the nearest preferred value are $27 \Omega$. Smali ${ }_{4} \mathrm{~W}$ resistors are suitable and indeed preferable to physically larger types.

All of these systems involve a loss of signal and this must be made up by amplification before the splitting. For a distribution system, splitting six or


Fig. 11: Suggested power supply for the v.h.f. amplifiers.
eight ways, two f.e.t.'s followed by three transistors should be adequate. One important point to note is that the outputs of the splitter must all be loaded by a $75 \Omega$ resistor when not in use, otherwise a loss of signal results and the splitter may form the node of standing waves in the feeder.

If either of the amplifiers is built as a distribution system, it is perhaps a good idea to build a small mains unit to power the whole system. It is desirable that this supply be stabilised to guard against changes in the tuning of the f.e.t.'s if the supply voltage changes.

Fig. 11 gives a circuit of a simple power supply based on an 8 V bell transformer with voltage doubling and zener stabilisation. The lamp, LP1, can be used to give on/off indication.

It is hoped that this article has given sufficient information for the home constructor to build an amplifier system to improve the performance of a tuner to reach the very high standards of the B.B.C. stereo transmisions.


## NOVEL TONE GENERATOR

WHENEVER home constructors and experimenters need to build a source of audio frequency, the choice nowadays is usually a transistor multivibrator. The reasons for this selection are easily understood. It requires few components, avoids the need for a transformer and gives a strong output signal. These virtues outweigh the fact that the square-wave output does not make for a particularly pleasing sound when amplified and fed to a loudspeaker.
In designing the a.f. tone generator to be described, the author set out to devise a circuit which would possess all the aforementioned merits of the multivibrator and at the same time give a better audio tone. In the circuit shown in Fig. 1-which, as a transistor circuit, is thought to be original-the writer believes these objectives have been largely achieved.

## N. NAUGHTON

It will be noticed that the circuit is actually simpler than a multivibrator and basically it is a sawtooth generator. Like all sawtooth generators it depends upon the charge and discharge times of a


Fig. 1; Circuit of tone generator.
capacitor for its action. But as linearity of the sawtooth ramp is not important for the required purpose, the provision of constant current is omitted in the circuit shown.

In Fig. 1 the two Iransistors perform the function of switches and the circuit operates as follows:capacitor C charges via the charging resistor Rc and the base-emitter junction of Trl. The charging current flowing through the B-E junction turns on Tr and the flow of collector current causes a voltage drop across Rl which results in the potential on the base of Tr2 dropping to a level low enough to turn off Tr2. As the charge on C rises the charging current diminishes so that the potential on the base of Trl decreases to a point where Trl turns off. The base of $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ now goes strongly negative causing Tr2 to turn on and C now discharges via Tr2 into the discharge resistor Rd. While discharge current is flowing in Rd it maintains a positive potential on the base of Trl thus preventing further switching action during the period of discharge. When C has discharged, it again draws current through Trl once again turning off Tr 2 . The cycle then repeats.
The foregoing is a simplified description of the operation but many will find it interesting to measure the balance of currents and potentials which exist in the circuit under static conditions when C is removed.
The frequency of oscillation is not readily calculated since it is influenced by several factors one of which will be determined by the type of coupling employed to connect the output. However, for practical purposes values of C ranging between $2,4 \mathrm{~F}$ and 5000 pF will cover the audio spectrum.

## APPLICATIONS

A useful feature of the circuit is that it uses only one capacitor. With the values given, the generator should oscillate at any point within the a.f. range the actual point being determined by the value of C selected. Thus it becomes a simple matter to construct a signal generator giving a number of spot frequencies as desired; the only extra components needed being a multi-pole switch and a few capacitors. Many other audio applications will doubtless occur to readers.
For those interested, an interesting feature of the circuit is that because the charge and discharge paths of C are independent, the circuit can readily be made to produce right-handed or left-handed sawtooth waveforms. Moreover, by choice of p.n.p. or n.p.n. transistors, the polarity of either slope can be created as desired at source, thereby eliminating inverting stages. Although some value of Rd is essential for circuit function, in practice this can be less than $100 \Omega$ thus allowing fast flyback times. There is no reason why C can not be a very large value electrolytic so that the circuit can easily be adapted for timing application.

## GENERAL

No constructional details are given since the generator will mostly be incorporated in some larger project. Experimenters can assemble the components on a length of Veroboard or tagboard.
As stated at the outset, the circuit is primarily intended as an a.f. generator and the values given have been chosen to give a roughly pyramid waveform at the collector of Tr 2 . A strong output signal is also available at the collector of $\operatorname{Trl}$ but this is a
steep sided pulse and the "softer" toned signal at the $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ output can be readily appreciated. Coupling of the output is perhaps best determined to suit the individual case but too tight a coupling to the Tr2 output is best avoided. This is less important if the Trl output is used.
With the component values given. the circuit places no critical demands on the transistors ${ }^{-}$ characteristics. Seven widely differing types, in various combinations, have been tried with success. However, experimenters using low values of Rdespecially with a high value of C -should note that Tr2 must then be a device capable of handling the heavier discharge current. Tr 1 and $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ must both be either p.n.p.'s or n.p.n.'s, the -9 V becoming +9 V if n.p.n.'s are used.

## TELEVETOII

## APRIL ISSUE

## TOUCH TUNING

The latest development in television receiver design is touch-sensitive tuning, using touchbutton units which provide a completely nonmechanical means of chaninel changing. A very high-impedance electronic switching circuit selects the required channel when a finger is placed across a pair of contacts to complete the approprlate circuit. Several models featuring touch funing are now on the market and this month we are investigating the technique and the circuitry involved. The change from mechanical to all-electronic channel selection should* improve the stability and reliability of TV funing.

## BAND III PREAMPLIFIER

Another Bunney wideband aerial amplifier intended for DX work. The two-transistor (BF272)* design on test lifted a weak signal from mere traces of line sync pulses to a solidly locked noisy image. Part of Roger's present programme of improving his $D X$ receiving equipment.

## SERVICING

Plenty on the servicing front this month. John Law in his new fault-finding series investigates the line timebase used in most KB-STC models. Vivian Capel completes his guide to power supply circuit servicing. Les Lawry-Johns starts on the single-standard Bush-Murphy TV181S/ V2016 series. And Caleb Bradley takes us further with the BRC 2000 colour chassis.

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## D. SILVESTER

THE audio amplifier to be described was designed to delive.$^{\circ}$ in excess of 10 W r.m.s. into an $8 \Omega$ load, whilst being constructed in a 41 in. $x$ $3{ }_{2}$ in. $x 2 \mathrm{in}$. diecast aluminium box. The size of the box is, in fact, limited not by the size of the i.c. but by the passive components, especially the output capacitor which must be included in the circuit. The use of the i.c. has added one inestimable advantage in that the current through (and the power dissipated by) the output stage under overload conditions can be limited. It is thus possible for the output to be short circuited without disastrous results.

The i.c., although capable of giving a 1 watt output without any other transistors, has been primarily designed for use as the driver stage of an amplifier
capable of delivering up to 35 watts into an $8 \Omega$ load.
A description of the working of the i.c. has not been included as it is not necessary for the constructor to completely understand the operation of the device for it to be used successfully.

Two transistors in the i.c. are responsible for the current and power limiting facility. It was calculated that under maximum current limiting and with the normal current gain of a power transistor, the output stage of the i.c. would be overloaded. One way of curing this fault is to use a Darlington transistor. This in fact was done, the Darlington pair being contained in the TO3 metal case of the power transistor. The current gain of the complementary Darlington pairs is in excess of 1000.

## CALCULATIONS

The final circuit used for the prototype amplifier is shown in Fig. l but since other constructors may wish to use different power supply voltages and load impedances from those used by the author, the method of calculation of the current and power limiting components is given. The basic circuit should be adhered to as it is only the values of R6, R8, R9 and R11 which need to be changed.

The following section shows the worked equations used to give the value of the components in Fig. 1.


Fig. 1: Circuit diagram of the amplifier and pin connections for the output transistors.

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Fig. 3: Component layout on top of veroboard, the ropper strips running horizontally anderneath.


Fig. 2 : Drilling details for the box lid on which components are mounted
They are based on a supply voltage (Vcc) of 35 V and a loudspeaker impedance of $8 \Omega\left(\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}\right)$. Before beginning the calculations it must be remembered that there are two limitations imposed by the active devices used; the supply voltage must be in the range 10 to 40 V , and the maximum current through the transistors $\operatorname{Tr} 1, \operatorname{Tr} 2$ must not exceed 4 A . We can calculate:


This view of the completed amplifter emphasises the restrictions on the physical size of the output capacitor C6.

Proik current in transistors is:

$$
\frac{\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{cc}}}{2 \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}}=2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~A}\left(\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{pk}}\right)
$$

If this value is above 4 A we must use either a lower supply voltage or higher load impedance. 'lo provide current limiting of this value and assuming no voltage drop across R7, R10 we calculate the values of R6 and R11 as:

$$
R 6=R 11=\frac{650 \mathrm{mV}}{I_{p h}}=\frac{0.65}{2.2}=0.296 \Omega
$$

The nearest preferred value of resistor, which must be lower in value than the calculated value, is $0.27 \Omega$. The basis of the working of the power limiting facility is difficult to explain in such a short article but works on the principle that both a high voltage across or a high current through a transistor and its network of resistors (Trl, R6, R7 and R8) will tend to turn off the transistor. The resistor network acts to sense the power dissipation in the transistor and to limit this dissipation. The value of R 7 and R10 is $56 \Omega$. In all cases the value of R8 and R9 is:

$$
\mathrm{R} 8=\mathrm{R} 9=\frac{\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{cc}}}{6 \mathrm{~mA}}=5.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega
$$

The next highest preferred value, $6 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, is rather difficult to obtain and the value has been increased to $6.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. The voltage gain of the circuit is 100 and although this may be altered by changing the value of R4, the effect of such a change on the stability of the amplifier is difficult to predict. Under d.c. conditions the capacitor C 3 represents an open circuit and the d.c. gain becomes zero, the voltage at the emitters of the two transistors, determined by the ratio of the values of R1 and R2, being at half the supply voltage.

## components list



## CONSTRUCTION

The complete circuit is constructed in a diecast aluminium box using the lid'to hold all the components and the rest of the box as the cover. Fig. 2 shows the lid marked out for drilling, after which the power transistors are mounted (the NPN transistor Trl, MJ4000 on the left as seen in .Fig. 2) using mica washers with bushes. It is best at this stage to check whether the collectors of the transistors have been accidentally shorted to the box lid. The remainder of components should be fixed to the box lid, a tag washer under the input socket nut providing the main connection to the lid.

The component board is a $2 \cdot 9 \mathrm{in}$. $\times 2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{in}$. piece of $0 \cdot 1$ matrix veroboard, with the copper strips running along the $2 \cdot 9 \mathrm{in}$, length of the board, Fig. 3 . After cutting the strips below the i.c., drilling the mounting holes and cleaning up the rough edges, a few moments should be spent with a meter checking that no lines are shorted together and that the strips below the i.c. are completely severed.
There should be no difficulty in constructing the board, but it is advisable to use different coloured wires for the flexible connections as this assists in the final wiring. The capacitor C 6 is held in place by its wire leads, the positive end of the component being connected to the emitter of Trl. The circuit board is held above the transistors on four 4BA screws with either two sets of nuts and washers or lin. long spacers. The nut heads are stuck on the box lid with epoxy resin adhesive.

The final stage of wiring consists of connecting all the leads from the board to their respective terminations, wiring a negative supply earth lead to the earth end of the output socket, the negative supply socket, and the solder tag on the input socket. Lastly a wire is taken from the centre of the input socket to one side of VR1, the remaining potentiometer connection being taken to earth (the slider goes to the input on the board).

A power supply capable of delivering the maximum requirements of the amplifier must be used. In the author's case a supply of 35 V at $2 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~A}$. Under these conditions the amplifier was able to deliver nearly 15 W r.m.s. into an $8 \Omega$ load.

## CQ! CQ! CQ! CO! CQ!

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## ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

F
FOR some time now, weather satellites have been happily orbitting the earth some 800 miles up. These animals transmit a picture of the earth and a suitably equipped station below can receive these pictures. They show cloud distribution which is useful in helping to guess whether it will rain or not on the following washday.

## 3D RAIN?

Now comes news about a satellite built by the RCA. It is equipped with special sensors and boasts the distinction of being the very first operational satellite to provide a three-dimensional picture of the earth's weather. It is equipped with some very impressive sounding equipment; a scanning radiometer, a very high resolution radiometer and a vertical temperature profile radiometer.

The very high resolution radio meter (v.h.r.r.) has two channels and offers images from both the visible and infra-red regions. It can sense the thermal energy given off by objects below, down to half a mile in area.

Resolution is far better than the pictures provided by television cameras or the radiometers used in earlier satellites. The solar cells in the satellite, NOAA-2, generate some 500 watts and over 10,000 individual cells are used to achieve this power. Who knows-television announcers of the future may be forecasting that three dimensional rain is on the way.

## LIQUID CRYSTALS

It now seems a certainty that liquid crystal displays will have a big impact on the electronics market. I reported these as being already built into a multi-digit display being marketed at the Electronica exhibition in Germany late last year. Now, the U.S. giant, North American Rockwell is reported to be mass-producing liquid crystal devices.

The liquid crystal phenomenon was first discovered way back, as long ago as 1888. The basic principle is that certain liquids become opaque when they are subjected to an electric field. With no field present, they are transparent. The North American Rockwell displays consist of two small plates of glass. Although
these are bonded together, they are separated by a tiny gap-about a the usandth of an inch. This tiny gap is illed with the special liquid which is affected by an electric field. The cell is thus completely transparent.

However, when a small electric fied is applied (this takes about 25 V to achieve the desired effect) the cell becomes opaque. Without a ield, the molecules in the liquid are uniformly and regularly oriented. The application of the electric field canses this molecular structure to bezome disoriented and the molecu es thus scatter the light giving an opaque effect.

The voids or spaces into which the liquid is put can be formed into figures or letters for the purposes of forming a display. Conductors to the liquid are formed from tin oxide wtich is a transparent conductor. The liquid crystal display draws almost no power-about 10 mW or one hundredth of a watt. Perhaps we will have windows some day which will be clear until we press a button?

## OZONE SPEEDS UP RESIST REMOVAL

Integrated circuits (i.c.'s) are de icate little beasts especially during their manufacture. Part of this process is a photographic one. Trere is a particular stage in the printing of each mask where unwanted photo-resist has to be removed. Considering the size of elements on individual i.c.s this removal is a delicate business. The General Electric Company in the U.S.A. have come up with a new method of removing unwanted photoresist. It consists of exposing the resist to ultra-violet rays in the presence of air. It takes about 40 minutes for a typical film of resist to be removed. The depolymerisation of the resist happens at a rate of about a thousand angstroms per minute. By injecting $2 \%$ ozone gas into the chamber with the specimen the process is speeded up some ten times.

三arlier, I talked of liquid crystals and many have leapt in claiming that the solid state flat tube television screen is here. One British manufacturer, however, is obviously urimpressed. Mullard has opened a
new factory in County Durham. The sole purpose is to manufacture shadow mask colour television tubes.

Although only officially opened in December last year, pilot production was already said to be running at the rate of 100,000 tubes delivered from this plant. By the end of this year, production is estimated to be in the region of 500,000 tubes and by the end of this present decade, production will be running at some 900,000 tubes/annum. All this adds up to a lot of colour television receivers-have you got yours yet?

## LASERS ARE BACK

Lasers are back in the news again, this time in America where the Optical Physics Division of the National Bureau of Standards is applying one to monitor pollution. A major contributor to atmospheric pollution is nitrous oxide. It is found lurking in such jolly jollop as flue gases and in the exhaust fumes from motor vehicles.

The laser beam is directed through a magnet whose coils are driven by an audio amplifier and is detected by an infra-red device. The amplifier generates a modulating magnetic field which has the effect of sweeping the absorption line through the laser line. The detector produces a signal which has a direct relationship to the amount of nitrous oxide in the sample being investigated.

Concentrations of nitrous oxide as low as 20 parts per million (p.p.m.) can be detected but workers believe that concentrations right down to 0.1 p.p.m. will be detectable as the method is improved.

## FLYING SPOT

Useful things oscilloscopes. Have you ever wondered just how fast that tiny spot of light travels across the cathode ray tube? Before you start to make calculations, think of the latest fast writing oscilloscope, the HP 184 A . The writing speed for this unit is so fast that the spot travels 400 cm in one millionth of a second.
Cinsberz


EVER since the day when Marconi equipped the yacht Elettra with radio to act as a mobile test-bed, electronics and boats have been closely associated. The first really extensive use of radio was at sea, and after the Titanic disaster all ships were required to keep radio watch continuously for distress signals. The requirement for ships to be fitted with radio and staffed with trained operators did not, however, extend to small boats at that time. and it is only fairly recently that radio and electronic aids for pleasure craft have become more of a pecessity for serious boating.

## MARINE HAZARDS

Electronic devices for use at sea present some design problems which do not appear in land-based equipment. The most obvious hazard is moisture, not the fresh water moisture of a foggy day on land but the salt-laden moisture which corrodes its way through soldered joints, cable terminations, plugs and sockets, and most other metal-to-metal joints in a remarkably short time. As well as the corrosion problem, which can be completely solved only by total encapsulation, there is the problem of insulation resistance.

Salt spray is quite a good conductor and in valve equipment in particular, operating at high voltages, protection of equipment from saline elements is a problem to designer and operator alike.
It was largely the water-spray problem, as well as the cost factor, which has kept electronics out of small craft for so long. In large vessels, the radio and radar equipment could at least be mounted in an enclosed space at a reasonable height above the deck, well away from the direct spray except in the most extreme conditions. In small boats, such sprayfree havens cannot be found, and there is little chance of keeping the equipment free of water by heating coils, as were once used on bridge-mounted radio and radar.

The: advent of solid state equipment has opened up a new dimension in marine applications, especially with the possibility of cutting down on interconnections by using integrated circuits. Vibration is one of the most pressing problems in small craft; where: the rumble of even a small diesel engine is enough to loosen plugs from sockets or wires from soldered joints.

Some of the most up-to-date equipment usid for pleasure craft can be seen at the annual Boat Show, held each year in London in January. This year you "would" have found amongst other more glamorous displays, several kinds of communications equipment.

One stand showed a "triple-standard" television receiver, complete with inverter for use with ship batteries, for use in most yachting centres in the world. But for those who insist on wind in their sails, there was a complete analogue computer, laking information on wind speed and direction, water speed, currents, intended course, and displaying the optimum trim on a model.

## RADIO AIDS

Radio is still the mainstay of marine electronics, and it is hardly surprising that there should not be many advances in this direction as there are in instrumentation. The latest ranges of transmitter/ receivers are geared to the most recent International regulations, which call for s.s.b. working in the marine bands between 250 kHL and $4 \cdot 1 \mathrm{MHL}$ and the use of all solid state equipment has resulted in very compact apparatus.

A large number of v.h.f. and u.h.f. radiotelephones were also shown, and one interesting new development is the Marconi "Pocketphone" intended for communication on large vessels, such as tankers, and during docking and cargo handling operations.

The v.h.f. and u.h.f. equipment uses frequency modulation, and most make provision for the reduction of channel spacings to 25 kHz , which will soon be a Post Office requirement. The bands used are within the range 148 MHz to 174 MHz in v.h.f. and 440 MHz to 470 MHz in u.h.f. Communications equipment was being shown by (among others) Marconi Marine, Electronic Laboratories (Marine), Ajax Electronics and S.P. Radio A/S of . Denmark.

The latter firm was showing a receiver operating under the spray from a waterfall, whose salt content I did not sample, and also showed the "Dual-watch" facility on receivers. This enables the operator to fulfil the requirements of listening for distress sig nals along with normal working. The distress frequency is preset, so that the set is tuned permanently to that frequency in the watching circuits.

Working can be continued on other channels, and if a signal is received on the distress frequency (or any other being watched) the receiver output is instantly and automatically switched to the watched frequency. A lamp indicator also shows when a call is being received on the watched channel, and flashes during normal operation to show that the watch is being carried out.

## DIRECTION INDICATOR

An interesting device for the small boat is the "Seafix", a hand-held radio direction indicator by Electronic Laboratories (Marine). This consisted of a t.r.f. transistor receiver with "autodyne" detection
over the range 200 to 400 kHz , with the calibration most accurate at 300 kHz , the centre of the Marine Beacon band.

Switched to NAV, the autodyne circuit is used to receive beacon transmissions, and the highly directional ferrite rod aerial can be used for finding the bearing of the beacon within $2^{\circ}$ (at half rated range). Switched to BC, the "Seafix" can be used to pick up the long-wave shipping forecasts broadcast on this band. A stethoscope headset was used in preference to loudspeakers or conventional phones, and water sealing was by the conventional compressed rubber gaskets.

## RADAR

Radar has for a long time been one of the most important navigational aids for larger vessels, but is seldom seen on smaller craft. There are several reasons for this: the cost of any radar installation is high, since it must include the cost of modifications to the vessel as well as the provision of the apparatus.

Radar equipment is often unavoidably large, heavy and dependent on high voltages, since the cathoderay tube and the magnetron must use high voltages, although it is now possible to replace the klystron local oscillator by Gunn diodes or other semiconductor devices.


Manufacturers are not dragging their heels over these problems, but are commendably cautious, since they know only too well how much the readings of a radar receiver come to be relied on. Any compression of size or cost must therefore not be made at the expense of accuracy of plotting if we are not to have a rash of "radar-assisted" collisions. All the big names in marine radar (Decca, E.M.I., Marconi Marine) showed small radar outfits, but these were not really intended for the amateur.

The Hepplewhite "Marine Check" is a continuous scanning self-powered instrument designed to minimise risk of collision with other vessels, whose radar may not pick up small boats in bad weather or low visibility-the "Marine Check" will however, detect the other vessel's radar transmission and allow you to take avoiding action.

The scanning head is a miniature, precision, solidstate detector and amplifier of continuous, pulsed
and modulated X-band radar transmission (9,000 to $11,500 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) with electronics mounted in a shockproof case and will receive radar transmissions at sighting distance.

As the sensitivity is reduced, the directional power of the antenna is proportionately increased to a point where the bearing is located on a narrow sector. If this bearing, which is indicated on a compass scale, remains constant, you may be on a collision course, also as the pulse length increases as the distance decreases, it is possible, within limits to determine if the transmitting vessel is approaching or receding.

The "Seascan" radar by Electronic Laboratories (Marine) is designed for the amateur, and has a power consumption of only 48 W from $12 \mathrm{~V}, 24 \mathrm{~V}$ or 48 V battery supplies. The only vacuum devices used are the display tube and the magnetron, the local oscillator being a Gunn diode whilst the magnetron modulator uses a thyristor. Unfortunately no circuit details were available and all the units on the stand were dummies.

One interesting new development in radar for the small craft is a passive radar detector by Hepplewhite Marine. This picks up the X-band ( 9,000 to $11,500 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) transmissions from other vessels, and has a small directional aerial consisting of a Perspex "horn" on which waves are guided (along the surface) by the effect of the permittivity of the material. The received radar signals are mixed with the output of a local oscillator, and the beat note amplified. The point of strongest signal can be identified by altering the mixer bias so that only a signal of the maximum strength will produce a beat note; this enables the operator to find the bearing of the craft carrying the radar.

## SPEED MEASUREMENT

Water and wind speed instruments have for a long time been a weak point in the instrumentation of boats. The traditional methods of measuring speed have depended on anemometers for wind speed and submersible "logs" for water speed. The anemometer is the device using three or four cups at the ends of radial rods pivoted so that the effect of wind is to revolve the assembly about its axis. The


The Electra Magnetic Log is an impellerless speed and distance indicator.


Fig. 1: The Doppler Principle. Imagine a transducer giving out sound waves. These waves travel in water at a speed of about 1,000 metres per second. Speed equals frequency multiplied by wavelength.
If the transducer moves at a speed " $V$ ", the speed of the waves towards the reflector is now $1,000+V$ metres per second. We have not changed the frequency of transmission, so the wavelength must now be less.
$(1,000+V=f \times$ new wavelength.)
The waves are now reflected to a moving object, so that more waves per second hit the receiving transducer. The frequency is now higher by a factor $\frac{c+V}{c}$ where $c$ is

the normal wave speed and $V$ is the speed of the transducer and boat. The final effect is to receive waves of shorter wavelength and higher frequency.
speed of rotation, which depends on the wind speed, is measured by counting the number of switching operations of a reed switch under the influence of a magnet on the rotating shaft. This count is converted into an analogue signal which drives a meter. Wind direction is found by using a vane coupled to a potentiometer to show the angular position by voltage detection on a meter.
The traditional submersible "log" consists of a small propeller whose shaft is held in a casing containing a reed switch. The rotation of the propeller as the "log" is towed behind then registers relative water speed just as the anemometer registers relative wind speed. The snag is that the propeller of the $\log$ is easily jammed by anything encountered in the water from jellyfish to seaweed, and this can have the effect of making calculation of speed and distance incorrect.

## SPEED-LOGS

Two novel speed-logs were shown, each representing refreshingly different thinking about the problem. Space Age Electronics showed their Doppler speed log. This uses a ceramic transducer to project a 1 MHz sound beam ahead of the ship. Most of the beam is dissipated in the water, but a small part is reflected from the layer of relatively still water (the boundary layer) close to the boat.
When the boat is moving, the reflected frequency is not the same as the transmitted frequency (Doppler Effect). If the boat is moving ahead, the reflected frequency is higher than the transmitted frequency; if the boat moves astern, the reflected frequency is lower.

Referring to Fig. 1, the transmitter, because of its movement, "packs in" more waves between itself and the still layer than it would if it were not moving. Because more waves are travelling, the wavelength seems shorter. Also, when the waves reflect from the boundary layer, the receiver has also moved towards them, making the frequency of the received waves seem higher.

When the reflected wave is detected, the shorter wavelength appears as a higher frequency (speed = frequency $\times$ wavelength), whose value depends on the difference between the speed of sound in water and the speed of the boat. By beating the transmitted frequency against the reflected frequency, a measure of speed can be obtained.
The method is dependent on obtaining a reflection from relatively still water, and so the transmitting/


Fig. 2: An e.m.f. is produced between two metal contacts, providing the direction of flow is at right-angles to the line joining the contacts.
receiving head must be located where such a layer is within range. Precise location varies from boat to boat. To allow for variations in installation, the calibration is adjustable, so that the distance log can be checked against accurately known distances (between two land-marks, for example). The circuitry uses three integrated circuits, 17 transistors and eight diodes. A "log" accuracy of better than $\pm$ $1^{1} \%$ (typical) is claimed.

The "Electra" magnetic log, produced by E.M.I. marine uses the magnetohydrodynamic principle for its operation; this is the generation of a voltage by induction when a conducting liquid flows past a magnetic field.

By arranging a magnetic field to cut the direction of water flow at right angles, an e.m.f. is induced between two metal contacts in the moving water, provided that the direction of flow is at right angles to the line joining the contacts (Fig. 2)

The Electra Magnetic Log operates on this principle, but with some ingenious modifications. The magnetic field used is an alternating field. In this way, the voltage generated is also alternating, which disposes of two problems at once. One problem is polarisation; when a steady voltage exists between two contacts in sea water, an electrolysis action takes place causing corrosion of the metal. The use of a.c. avoids polarisation problems and makes it easy to amplify and display the output from the contacts. As with the previous method, the positioning of the measuring head is critical.

## ECHOSOUNDERS

Echosounders have been used for a considerable time, and changes have been in detail rather than in concept. Basically, a marine echosounder consists of a pulse generator working at ultrasonic frequencies in the region 20 kHz to 150 kHz (the higher frequencies are used for inshore work). A transducer converts the electrical pulses into sound waves directed from the bottom of the boat into the sea, and a receiver, ising the same transducer, detects the pulse reflected from the bottom of the sea.

The shape of the received pulse provides a guide to the nature of the sea bed, for example, a muddy


The electro-magnetic transducer for the magnetic log. As the boat moves along, a small e.m.f. is produced and sensed by two probes. This signal is then amplified and displayed in speed and distance units.


The Doppler speed-log does not tely on the flow of water to move a mechanmal part like an impeller or paddle wheel. A small streamlined transducer, mounted nush with the underside of the hull, transmits a high frequency ultrasonic signal 70 cms ahead. A small part of this signal is reflected back from the boundary layer between the hull and the water.
sea bed is indicated by a broad pulse, a sandy bed by a narrow pulse, a rocky bed gives multiple reflections. Pulses received from intermediate depths can indicate shoals of fish. The time delay between transmission and reception is proportional to the depth of sea.

Because the pulses are travelling in the water at the speed of sound (around 1,000 metres per second) rather than at the speed of radar waves in space (some 30 million metres per second), scanning rates have to be lower than the $1,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ commonly used in radar. Scanning rates of once per second are common, although this is rather too low for display on a long persistence cathode ray tube screen.

The display method traditionally used is a rotating wheel carrying, or illuminated by, a neon which flashes on transmission of the pulse and again when the echo is received. The stationary bezel round the wheel is then calibrated in metres of depth (now replacing fathoms on the latest charts).

The large number of echo sounders at the show demonstrated several novel points of design. Most interesting was the use of electro-luminescent diodes to replace neons, so avoiding the need to generate a high voltage supply (Brookes \& Gatehouse). A common feature of all the echo sounders was the use of high scan rates for the shallow water ranges (up to six pulses per second) so giving better definition in critical conditions.

Lead zirconate titanate crystals were in evidence as transducers, encapsulated in various plastics. For professional use, chart recording echosounders were shown (these, of course, have been arcund for a long time). The Marconi Marine chart-maker used electrosensitive paper which changed colour when a small voltage was applied between the front of the paper and the back.

## WATER-LEAK AND WATCH

In addition to the displays of electronics for communication and navigation, there were some interesting exhibits in the "miscellaneous" class. SpaceAge Electronics were showing their water-leak and watch alarm, and judging by the sound which could be heard all over the first floor of Earls Court, almost every chandlery firm was demonstrating it.

The instrument is basically a conventional leakage detector using stainless steel pins as probes. If the pins are immersed in water for more than four seconds, an alarm is given, but only if the immersion is for longer than four seconds, a time carefully chosen to avoid continual false alarms in heavy seas. When there is no conductivity between the pins, all transistors are biased off, so ensuring practically no standby current. The sound given out is a rising frequency note which is most easily distinguished amongst other sounds.
The watch facility also provided on this instrument gives an alarm note of gradually increasing amplitude every three minutes. If an alarm button is pressed during the alarm, or before it, the instrument remains silent until another three minutes has passed. If the helmsman is asleep and does not press the alarm button, the alarm warning increases to maximum intensity.

## GAS ALARM

The Electra gas alarm, from E.M.I. Marine, is of considerable interest. Unlike previous gas alarms, which used heat conduction from a hot wire to detect changes in the air composition, the Electra gas alarm uses semiconductor sensors. No details were given, but it is possible that the sensors consisted of infra-red electroluminescent diodes and detectors. Any change in the air composition caused by petrol vapour, butane or propane gas, carbon monoxide, smoke, paraffin fumes, diesel fumes is indicated by two visual warnings in the form of a meter reading and a red warning lamp.

In addition, a loudspeaker gives out a $2 \cdot 5 \mathrm{kHz}$ note when the gas concentration exceeds the safe limit. In this way, no panic is caused by small concentrations of gases, since only the discrect visual warning is given, but dangerous amounts operate the audible alarm so that evacuation or other measures can be taken. Remote warnings can also be fitted.

All in all, the Boat Show is developing considerable interest from the point of view of electronic aids. It is unfortunate that so few exhibitors were able to cope with technical queries, but all of them were most helpful.

# practically wireless commenaverntienn 

HAD a chap in the shop today, searching for an SP4. It is true: even in the glitter of a hi-fi establishment, where every prospect teases and only valves are vile, we still get enthusiasts with thirty-year-old equipment, hopeful of our being able to provide the missing link.

Which leads us, philosophically. to a contemplation of some of the 'firsts' we nowadays take for granted.

Example: the quasi-complementary transistor amplifier circuit, which has given us so much trouble since its inception. I have come across the September 1956 copy of Electronics, a McGrawHill publication, in which R. C. Lin, then of RCA, Princeton, first propounded his output circuit in which, to quote: '. . . the two upper transistors conduct during the negative half-cycle and the two lower transistors conduct during the positive half-cycle.'

In his summary, he gave amplifier distortion at 100 cps (sic) and 400 cps as below 1 per cent at six watts, and though he admitted that the distortion might be expected to rise at $5,000 \mathrm{cps}$, he made no mention whatsoever of its fierce spikiness at a fraction of a watt, which is the mariner we've had wrapped around our necks ever since.


The mariner wrapped around our necks.

Inventions, especially worldshaking innovations such as the transistor proved to be, have a habit of spawning themselves much more prosaically than we would like to imagine. No technologist runs screaming through the corridors of the M.I.T. with 'Eureka' echoing behind him. More likely, something as laconic as the $12 / 29 / 39: 4.15$ p.m. entry in William Shockley's notebook may be handed down to posterity: 'It has today occurred to me that an amplifier using semiconductors rather than vacuum tubes is in principle possible.'

In principle: hardly in practice. He was thinking of a Schottky-barrier FET kind of device, with copper-oxide as the semiconductor. And, as Henry could have told him*, it didn't work. Instead, the experiments of the team included covering metal points with wax and pushing them down on to p-type silicon treated to give an n-type surface. They surrounded the point with water and found they could obtain power amplification.
To quote Brattain: '. . . the group was jubilant that day.'

Trouble was that the water would evaporate. Maybe it was all that heavy breathing. So they switched to glycol borate to reduce evaporation. One trouble: amplification was obtainable only below 8 Hz -hardly hi-fi yet.

There were lots more experiments, culminating in evaporated gold spots and germanium, and then, on Dec. 23rd 1947, two gold contacts less than two-thousandths of an inch apart were made to the same piece of germanium and the first transistor happened.
No sudden breakthrough-no inspirational brainchild-and no immediate christening, I may add. It was a month later that a chap called John R. Pierce of the Bell technical staff mooched into Brattain's office and pointed out that the 20 dB point-contact amplifier they had made was the


Runs screaning through the corridors.
-. . . dual of a vacuum-tube, circuit-wise.' He mentioned the important valve parameter, transconductance. Then he went on to talk about its electrical dual, transresistance. To quote Brattain once more: '. . . then he said 'transistor', and I said, 'Pierce, that is it!!'

What about a few more firsts in our field? Who developed the first p-n junction? Bet you can't even say his name, let alone remember it. Well Henry can, with the benefit of some help from Edward A. Torrero, who is Associate Editor of Electronic Design. He was William Pfann (with the aid of a chap called Jack Schaff; let's give credit where it is due). They also worked for Bell Laboratories.

But Bell eschewed silicon for germanium, because the impurities, back in the early 1940's, were easier to control. It was left to Texas Instruments to develop silicon types of transistor, and to Motorola to introduce the diffused base transistor.

So I could continue. Henry hasn't the space to name those to blame.

But the "first" we are all concerned with is that original alltransistor radio. And who made that? A firm called Regency, in 1954. How's that for a significant 'first'?

* With the benefit of hindsight. Ed.


# EXTRA!! INNEXTMONTH'S <br> <br> Prear <br> <br> Prear  


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P.W's reputation for plenty of simple and straightforward constructional projects is excelled next month by an extra large issue. In addition to the usual constructional articles and features, the May issue will include a special extra 8-page coloured supplement describing eight easy projects for the home, designed and described by one of our top designers; you are bound to find at least one of these of interest. This supplement is fully illustrated with all the details on how to build these projects.


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Following the success of the Texan amplifier published in this magazine during May to August 1972, the applications laboratory of Texas Instruments Ltd. have developed exclusively for P.W., a compatible unit for the control of Psychedelic lights from a sound source. The initial design features zero voltage control. A more sophisticated design incorporating lamp dimming facilities will also be covered in this series of articles. For stereo operation two $P . W$. Tricolour units are required

IF I had been asked, a couple of years ago, what 'psychedelic lights' were, I could only have made a wild guess: was it perhaps a medical term referring to some sort of ultra-violet treatment for disorders of the mind? Or, possibly, the latest in pet food, some extratantalising form of offal? The truth, however, dawned slowly. What my "trendy" young friends were talking about was the latest innovation, the offspring of a marriage between light and music. It was not simply a question of a 'pop' version of 'son et lumière' but a more intimate relationship between the two media. Light could be made to respond directly to sound; Hlashing furlously for a fanfare, discreetly dimmed for Debussy. It is, however, unlikely that psychedelic lights will be installed in the Royal Festival Hall, but those of our readers who occasionally frequent the discotheque or dance hall will be familiar with this innovation. It is probable, too, that many have given thought to the incorporation of this feature into their own domestic lighting.systems. What, it might be asked, does this involve?
In essence a 'psychedelic' light system works like this: sound controlled modulators convert bass, middle and treble frequencies into corresponding bursts of light thus adding a new "visual" dimension to the beat of the music. This is achieved by taking a signal from across the loudspeaker terminals and feeding it into a filter circuit whose output provides pulses which correspond to the sound spec-trum-bass, middle and treble and any combinations of these three channels. These pulses then pass through an interface circuit and energise appropriate triacs. The latter, as will be seen, act as electronic switches and turn on the lamps.

This article will attempt to explain fully the construction of psychedelic light control units for both mono and stereo equipment. It is aimed at the home constructor who possesses nothing more than an average amount of skill.

## Zero Voltage Switching

As stated, the lights are turned on and off by utilising a device called a triac, i.e. a semiconductor bidirectional switch (Fig. 1). This replaces two thyristors connected back to back, thus controlling the positive and negative cycle of the supply voltage. Whereas the thyristor requires a positive gate to cathode voltage and will turn on only when the anode voltage is positive with respect to the cathode, triacs will turn on when the gate voltage polarity is the same as voltage between mt 2 and mtl (main terminal 2 and 1), i.e positive for the positive half cycle and negative for the negative half cycle. In addition a triac will turn on with the gate negative with respect


MONO/STEREO CAPABILITY
ZERO VOLTAGE SWITCHING
NEGLIGIBLE RADIO
INTERFEREVCE

## LAMP OVER-RIDE CONTROL

OPTIONAL LAMP DIMMING


Fig. 2: Waveforms associated with triac swiltching. Refer to the text for clarlication
to the mtl terminal for either polarity of mic. It is the latter factor which accounts for the techniques used in the circuits to be discussed in this arti=le.

A further point about the triac is that there sonly $2-3$ volts between the gate and terminal 1, whereas there may be many hundreds or even a thousand volts between terminal mit2 and mtl.

Triacs used in a phase control mode, as shown in Fig. 2, produce conside-able radio frequency inter-
ference (r.f.i.) due to the step change in current. The noise thus generated is spread by means of conduction through the wiring system or by radiation. Suppressing r.f.i. becomes more difficult and expensive as the load increases. Uncontrolled switching of "psychedelic" lamps on and off will have a similar effect and will also introduce additional noise in the loudspeakers. A simple solution to this problem is to arrange the switching so that it always takes place at the point where the mains supply voltage crosses zero, as shown in Fig. 3.


Fig. 3: Waveform depicting zero voltage switching.

This technique is called 'zero voltage switching' or 'burst firing.' In this way isolated numbers of half or full cycles will pass through the lamps and thus avoid step change in currents, which also has the additional advantage of increasing the life of the lamp.


Fig. 4: Basic circuit which generates the pulses at the point of zero voltage crossing.

Fig. 4 shows the circuit used to generate the pulses at the point of zero voltage crossing. Transistor $\operatorname{Tr} 1$, whose base is connected to the unsmoothed supply from the bridge rectifier D1 is on most of the time.

However, each time the mains voltage crosses zero, its base voltage is taken below the holding on voltage and it thus turns off, giving positive pulses on its collector. In order to reduce the loading on transistor $\operatorname{Tr} 1$, transistor $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ has been added. Positive pulses appear as an output across resistor $R$ each time the mains voltage crosses the zero point.


Fig. 5: Typical music voltage waveform at the terminals of a loud'speaker.

In order to control the lamp switching with respect to the frequency bands, we need a circuit which will separate out the low, middle and high frequencies from the voltage waveform appearing at the terminals of a loudspeaker. A typical voltage waveform appearing at this point is shown in Fig. 5.

## Filter

A circuit which separates frequencies into bands is called a filter. There are various types of filters which could be employed; e.g. one commonly used is a resistor/capacitor (r.c.) network for high and low pass filters and an inductor/capacitor (l.c.) network for middle frequencies. The elegant way, however, specially developed for the P.W. Tricolour is to employ integrated circuit (i.c.) operational amplifiers, in a positive fixed-gain configuration, as the active filter element and resistors and capacitors as passive elements. By choosing suitable component values a sharp separation between bass, middle and treble frequencies can be obtained.

The shape of the filter response is determined by a factor known as the damping ratio ( $\zeta$ ). The lower this ratio, the sharper the cut-off and there is a peaking effect. This peaking effect is of no importance in our application. As approximately 1.5 volts is required to turn on the interface circuit, and thus to switch on the appropriate lamps, the filter characteristics are expressed in volts against frequency and not in the more usual decibels against frequency.


Fig. 6: Basic low pass filter as used in the P.W. Tricolour.

The theory of filter design is quite extensive and complex. We will however only outline the necessary basic concepts and give some simplified formulae.

Let us first look at a basic low pass filter (i.e. one which will stop all frequencies except those below a chosen frequency). The circuit of such a filter is shown in Fig. 6.

Here the angular cut off frequency,

$$
\omega 0=\frac{1}{\mathrm{R} \sqrt{\mathrm{Cl} \mathrm{C}}}
$$

and the damping factor

Critical damping occurs when

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \zeta=\sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{C} 2}{\mathrm{C} 1}} \\
& \zeta=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}
\end{aligned}
$$

Fig. 7. Basic high pass filter.
and, for the reason explained before, i.e. to improve the sharpness, this value is reduced to $0 \cdot 5$. From these equations, the filter component values can be established.

The high pass filter (passing all frequencies above a chosen one) is shown in Fig. 7 and again requires only one operational amplifier, two resistors and two capacitors.

Here the angular cut-off frequency.
and the damping factor

$$
\cdots=\frac{1}{C \sqrt{R 1 R 2}}
$$



$$
\zeta=\sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{R} 1}{\mathrm{R} 2}}
$$



Fig. 8: Basic band pass filter.
Once more from these equations, the filter components values can be established. Finally, the band pass filter; which, of course, as its name suggests, passes a band of frequencies. This, as can be seen from Fig. 8, is a little more complicated than the other two.

The centre angular frequency $\omega 0=\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\mathrm{RC}}$
and the quality factor

$$
Q=\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4-\frac{\mathrm{R} 2}{\mathrm{R} 1}}
$$

$\mathrm{Q}=\frac{2 \Delta \mathrm{f}}{\mathrm{fo}}$, where $2 \Delta \mathrm{f}$ is the difference between two frequencies at which the voltage output of the filter is $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ of its maximum value. From the above formulae, relevant component values can be obtained.
Musically oriented readers will recall the 'unisono' note played on the oboe during the orchestra's tuning-up time, just before the concert begins. This note is middle ' $A$ ' with a frequency of 440 Hz ; a frequency which has been chosen as the centre frequency for the middle band-pass filter in

Rear view of the P.W. Tricolour.



Fig. 9: Complete P.W. Tricolour filter circuit. This unit is used without modification, with either the zero voltage switching unit (fig. 12) or with the lamp dimming unit, to be described later in this series.
this design. Cut-off frequency for the low pass filter has been chosen to be around 200 Hz and that of the high pass filter (treble) about 1 kHz .

Based on the above assumptions, a complete filter has been developed with the component values as shown in Fig. 9. The alert reader will notice that some of the component values differ from the figures obtained using the formulae. This has been done intentionally in order to improve the separation between the various frequency ranges.

The input to the filter circuit has been limited to 5 volts peak to peak by using two 5 volt zener diodes connected back to back. Three i.c. operational amplifiers are used. Two of which are contained in one 8 pin package, SN72558P and the other i.c. is contained in a second 8 pin package, SN72741P.

Fig. 10 shows output voltage response of the three filters plotted against frequency for a peak input signal of 0.5 volts. The effectiveness of the filters are obvious. The solid state switches-triacs-turn on their corresponding lamps at filter output voltages equal to and higher than 1.5 volts.

Figs. lla to lld show four oscilloscope photographs. These show traces with the vertical axes representing voltages and the horizontal one time. In each instance the four traces were taken simultaneously (i.e. they have a common time axes). In the oscillograms the top trace corresponds to the voltage at the loudspeaker terminal. The other three traces were taken at the outputs of the respective filters.

Fig. lla was taken at a time when the treble


Fig. 10: Output voltage/frequency response of the filter circuit shown in Fig. 9.


Fig. 11 : (a-d) A full explanation of these waveforms is given in the accompanying teat.
frequency was predominant. In Fig. 1lb the middle frequency is the strongest signal, while in Fig. 11c it is the bass. Fig. 11d shows some interesting combinations of all three frequencies. The middle frequencies predominate at the beginning of the trace, then the treble takes over at the centre of oscillogram and towards the end of the trace it is the turn of the bass to predominate.
A $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ potentiometer has been added at the input to the filter circuit to allow the voltage level at which the lamps are switched to be controlled. In this way it is possible to establish the best effect for 'soft' or 'party' type music.

The P.W. Tricolour is suitable for use with 4 to $15 \Omega$ loudspeakers. The load represented by the filters is negligible compared to the loudspeaker impedance.

It should be noted that the simple filter circuits illustrated at the beginning of this article used operational amplifiers. An operational amplifier has high input impedance, very high gain, and low output impedance, enabling the filter component values to be determined independent of the amplifier parameters. The amplifiers used were shown having a voltage gain of unity. This means that the output voltage of the high and low pass filters can never


Under side view of the P.W. Tricolour with zero voltage switching.


Fig. 12: Zero voltage switching control unit. The positive and negative 10 V supply lines are the d.c. supplies to the filter unit (Fig. 9).
be more than the input voltage. In order to achieve voltage gain so that sufficient output can be obtained to drive the interface circuit at low volume levels, the basic circuit must be modified. This involves reducing the proportion of output voltage from the amplifier that is used as feedback to the filter capacitors and resistors. This is achieved by the use of a resistive potential divider at the output of the
amplifier. This is shown in Fig. 9. The resistor ratio determines the gain of the filter in the pass-band.

The P.W. Tricolour is suitable for either mono or stereo record playing. In the case of the stereo system, the lights will flash in accordance with the signats appearing at the terminals of one of the speakers. However, for stereo enthusiasts who wish to use Iwo units, the interconnecting arrangement will

## $\star$ components list




Internal view of the P.W. Tricolour.
be explained later.
Fig. 12 shows the circuit which operates the flashing lights according to the frequency ranges.

Switch S4 controls the mains supply to the unit from a 13A domestic socket. When the a.c. mains power is on the gallium arsenide device LP4 lights. A smoothed d.c. supply for transistors Trl-Tr4 is obtained from a single phase bridge D10, resistor R30, diode D9 and capacitor C8. The $\pm 10 \mathrm{~V}$ power supply for the filter circuit is taken from zener diodes D7, D8 and capacitors C9 and C10.

As described previously, the zero voltage crossing pulses are generated at the collector terminal of transistor Trl. These pulses turn on transistors $\operatorname{Tr} 2$, Tr3 and Tr4 via base resistors R18, R20 and R24. When a voltage signal from the filter circuit appears at the input terminals, the corresponding thyristors CSR1, CSR2 or CSR3 will turn on allowing pulses to be present at the respective gate of CSR4," CSR5 or CSR6 which turn them and thus their lamps on. Pulse transformers T1, T2 and T3 are used only for electrical isolation.

Zener diodes D3, D4 and D5 limit the thyristors gate voltages to $3 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$ in the positive direction and to under 1 volt during the negative half cycles.

Facilities are provided for 'by-passing' the psychedelic control by closing switches S1, S2 or S3 to allow the lamps to be used as normal lights. The centre tap of the $12-0-12 \mathrm{~V}$ mains transformer is connected to the chassis and is earthed. Note that the three triacs are mounted on a common heat-sink, which is at the supply line voltage, i.e. 240 V .

The author has made arrangements for the supply of all components for the P.W. Tricolour with Henry's Radio Ltd. We understand that a detailed price list will be available from them upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

JKING (Edinburgh) asks for the times and frequencies of English speaking foreign stations - on the medium waves. Among the stronger there are Radio Sweden which is on 1178 kHz every night at 2245 hrs ; Radio Portugal on 755 kHz and 1161 kHz . also at 2345 hrs and the Vatican Radio on 1529 kHz at 2100 hrs . There are also the American Forces Network (AFN) outlets on $872 \mathrm{kHz}, 935 \mathrm{kHz}$ and 1142 kHz . Try for CJON St John's, Newfoundland on 930 kHz -it can be found on the low frequency side of AFN on 935 kHz after 2330 hrs . CJON has been a strong and consistent signal all winter and it has even been heard when conditions have been poor and no other North American could be heard.

Harold Emblem (Mirfield, Yorkshire) has received a QSL card (verification) from Radio Zagreb Yugoslavia which transmits on 1133 kHz . The address is Radio Televizija Zagreb, PO Box 818, Zagreb Yugoslavia and reports in English are answered. Harold mentions hearing PJA6 Radio Victoria on 925 kHz , which is located in the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean. It broadcasts religious programmes in English and other languages and is usually heard in this country after midnight.
Harry Kenyon (Leeds) has been looking for a published list of medium wave stations. "Broadcasting Stations of the World" published by Iliffe is available in many bookshops price 50 p . It covers medium wave stations in Europe and North Africa plus a number of more powerful outlets in other parts of the world, that are usually heard in Europr. There is also a comprehensive list of short wave stations.

Karl Ritz (Bicester) sends a programme schedule of BBC Radio Oxford which is now on 1484 kHz . Frequencies in use by $B B C$ local radio are 850 kHz R. Blackburn, 998 kHz R. Solent, 1034 kHz R. Medway, R. Sheffield; 1106 kHz R. Leeds; 1457 kHz R. London, R. Birmingham, R. Newcastle, R. Manchester; 1484 kHz R. Brighton, R. Humberside, R. Merseyside. R. Oxford; 1502 kHz R. Stoke; 1546 kHz R. Bristol, R. Teeside; 1594 kHz R. Leicester.

Kenneth Turner (Edinburgh) has logged R. Birmingham, R. Stoke and R. Bristol and he reports hearing Manx Radio (Britain's only commercial radio) on 1295 kHz and 1594 kHz .
G. H. Esmail (Bradford) enquires about a suitable receiver for use on the MWs. Serious DXers prefer a communications receiver such as the Trio 9R59DS or the Lafayette HA600 but an ordinary transistor portable will pull-in Europeans and North Africans and if the receiver is rotated to make use of its internal directional aerial, it will be possible to reduce quite a lot of interference.

Please send logs and information about the medium waves to the author at 132 Segars Lane, Southport PR8 3JG.
 Unfortunately, the interference from European stations, many of which now remain on the air all night, is likely to be much worse than it was during the last sunspot minimum. In order to winkle out the weaker DX signals from the QRM it will be important to choose an effective aerial system as well as a good receiver.

In the late 1950's the writer, in collaboration with Reg Dunkley of Havant, Hampshire, carried out a series of tests to investigate the possibility of using a tuned loop aerial for the reception of DX signals on the medium wave band. These tests showed that although the loop aerial is somewhat less sensitive than the usual outdoor wire type aerial it has several advantages which make it attractive for DX work.

Pick-up of background noise and static seems to be rather less on the loop aerial than it is on a wire aerial so that although giving less signal the loop does usually give a better signal to noise ratio.


Fig. 1: Configuration of a typical m.w. loop aerial.

By rotating the loop aerial its directional properties can be used very effectively to cut down adjacent channel interference from strong European signals. A further advantage of the loop aerial is that it is very compact and hence attractive to the listener who is unable to use a large outdoor aerial system.

The advantages of the loop aerial have, in the past ten years, made it very popular among the medium wave DX enthusiasts in Britain.

Although the basic loop aerial as used by most of these DX'ers is quite effective it is not the optimum arrangement.

In the past year the writer has experimented with methods of improving the performance of this type of aerial. In this article a system is described consisting of a loop aerial and a matching amplifier capable of giving a performance superior to that of the basic loop aerial.

## HOW THE LOOP WORKS

Before going on to describe the improved aerial system it would be as well to consider the make up of the basic loop aerial and the way in which it works. This type of aerial used to be a standard fitting in portable radios before the arrival of the ferrite rod aerial.

The loop aerial usually consists of a number of turns of wire wound in the form of a short coil on a large wooden frame. Typical aerials are square in shape as shown in Fig. 1 although circular or diamond shaped loops will also work. The length of the sides may be from 12 in . up to about 4 ft . In general the larger size aerials give greater signal output and rather better directional properties.

Normally the turns of the winding are spaced apart from one another to reduce self capacitance. The whole aerial is then tuned to resonance by a variable capacitor connected across the ends of the loop.


Fig. 2: (top) Vollages induced in" a single forn foop. Fig. 3:
(centre) indicales how the output of the foop depends on its "position relative to the signaf source. Fig. 4i: (bottom) illustrates the modified pick-up pattern of a loop due to "ankenna" effeci \#3. W\%

To ser how the loop works let us assume that fhere is only one turn as shown in Fig. 2. When radio waves pass through the loop a voltage will be induced in each of the vertical sides. These voltages are shown as $V$ and $V$. The relative polarity of the two voltages is indicated by the arrows. It will be seen that the voltage at the terminals of the loop will be made up of $V 1$ and $V 2$ connected in series. When the lwo voltages are connected in this way thes will be effectively in opposition to one another so that the resultant output voltage at the loop terminals will be the ditference between $V!$ and $V 2$. In practice the foo voltages are alternating and therefore the difference voltage will depend not only upon amplitude but also upon the phase of ${ }^{\top}$ ? relative to V2.

Suppose the loop is set up so that it is broadside on to the direction from which the received signal is coming. This is shown in Fig. 3(a) which shows a view looking down on to the aerial. Both vertical sides of the loop will be at exactly the same distance from the transmitter aerial so the induced signal voltages $V 1$ and $V 2$ will be of the same amplitude and in phase with one another. At the output ter. minals the difterence voltage produced will be cero since VI and V2 will cancel out exactly. This is known ds the 'null' position for the loop since there will be no signal output.

Now let us see what happens when the loop is turned so that it is in line with the direction of the signal being received as shown in Fig. $3(b)$. In this case one side of the loop is closer to the transmitter than the other. Since the width of the loop is very small compared witl the distance to the transmitter the amplitudes of the induced voltages $V 1$ and $V 2$ will still be virtually equal. The radio wave will. however. take a finite time to travel from the near side of the loop to the far side so that V2 will lag be hind in phase relative to Vl. This phase shift of V2 will produce a difference signal output at the loop terminals. In tact at this position the loop will give its maximum output signal.

The resultant pick up pattern for a loop aerial will be as shown in Fig. 4(a). If extra turns are now added to the loop so that it forms a short coil the voltages produced by each of the turns will add together at the output terminals. As a result the output from the aerial will be proportional to the number of turns used. For a multi-turn aerial the pick up pattern will be the same as for a single turn. A further increase in output can be obtained if the aerial is tuned to resonance by connecting a variable capacitor across the ends of the loop winding.

## "ANTENNA" EFFECT

One of the difficulties which occurs when using a loop aerial is known as the "antenna" or "vertical" effect. Unless the aerial is exactly balanced electrostatically with respect to earth it will act as a normal vertical aerial. A simple vertical aerial picks up the signal at equal strength from all directions in the horizontal plane. Now we get the condition that when the aerial is broadside on to the direction of the signal the voltages V1 and V2 cancel as before but
** the output due to "antenna" effect remains con-
** stant. This results in a pick-up pattern like that in

* Fig. 4(b) where the nulls are less marked and much broader than for a perfect loop.


Fig. 5: Basic circuit of an early valve-type balanced input stage.

Perhaps the most obvious method of coupling the loop to the receiver would be to connect it directly across the aerial input terminals of the receiver. This method is rarely successful since the aerial will be unbalanced to earth and "antenna" effect is usually very bad.

For the basic loop aerial used by m.w. DX'ers the usual method of coupling is by means of a link winding. The link usually consists of one turn, or sometimes two, wound on the frame alongside the main winding. This link winding is then connected directly to the receiver input. With a link coupling of this type the aerial usually works quite well except that the link winding itself tends to produce some output due to "antenna" effect.

## DIFFERENTIAL MATCHING AMPLIFIER

Wartime d.f. receivers, such as the R1155, made use of a differential or push-pull amplifier at the input. This type of amplifier uses two valves with

## components list


their cathodes connected together as shown in Fig. 5. The resistor in the cathode circuit is made large enough so that it acts as a constant-current source. This type of amplifier responds only to differences in voltages between the two grids and will reject any signal common to both grids such as that produced by "antenna" effect in the loop aerial.

A balanced input amplifier using transistors instead of valves is shown in Fig. 6. In order to maintain a high value of $Q$ in the aerial circuit a pair of field effect transistors is used for the differential input stage. This type of transistor has similar characteristics to a valve and gives a much higher input impedance than a normal bipolar type transistor. In this circuit 2 N 3823 ' N ' channel field effect transistors are used.

A differential amplifier works most effectively when the common-tail circuit of the input pair is fed from a constant-current source. In the valve version this is achieved by feeding the common cathode point through a large resistor from a negative supply voltage. In the circuit of Fig. 6 the transistor Tr 2 is used to provide a constant current feed.

Characteristics of the 2 N 3823 may vary widely from one transistor to another. For optimum results the two transistors $\operatorname{Trl}$ and $\operatorname{Tr} 3$ in the input stage should either be matched or at least have similar characteristics. This can be checked by using the


Fig. 6: (left) Complete circuit of the loop matching amplifier. Note that the 2N3823 transistor specified is preferable to the unscreened 2N3823E. Fig. 7: (above) is the circuit of the simple test set-up for checking the characteristics of the f.e.t.'s.

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 $\begin{array}{ll}\text { AC151 } & \text { 42p BD131/132 } \\ \text { AC152 } & \text { 15p } \\ \text { AC15 } & \text { BF120 } \\ \text { AC153 } & \text { 190 BF115 }\end{array}$



 | AC187 | 17p | BF173 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| AC188 | $23 p$ | BF177 |
| A 187 | 20 | BF 178 | $\begin{array}{ll}\mathrm{ACC188} \\ \mathrm{AC} 187 / 188 \mathrm{~K} & 230\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}\text { ACY47 } & 270 \\ \text { ACY18 } & 20 \\ \text { ACY19 } & 20\end{array}$



$\begin{array}{ll}\text { AD149 } & \text { 50p BFX13 } \\ \text { AD161 } & \text { 35p BFX29 }\end{array}$



| AF116 | 25D |
| :--- | :--- |
| AF117 | BFY50 |
| AF118 | 25p |
| BFYS1 |  |
| AF124 | 25 |

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { AF117 } & \text { 24D BFY52 } \\ \text { AF124 } & \text { 25p BFY53 } \\ \text { AF125 } & \text { 24D BFY } 90\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { AF125 } & \text { 24DBFY90 } \\ \text { AF126 } & \text { 17p BP101 } \\ \text { AF139 } & 30 \mathrm{BPP} 06\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { A.F139 } & \text { 30D } \\ \text { AFPX66 } \\ \text { AF188 } & \text { 40D } \\ \text { BRY39 }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { AF188 } & \text { 40p } \\ \text { AF239 } & \text { B6P39 } \\ \text { AF279 } & \text { 47p } \\ \text { AF } & \text { BS } 19 \\ \text { ASY }\end{array}$
AF279

## $\begin{array}{ll}\text { ASY27 } & \text { 30p BSY27 } \\ \text { ASY28 } & 22 p \text { BSY29 } \\ \text { ASY29 } & 30 \mathrm{DSY} 95 \mathrm{~A}\end{array}$ <br> $\begin{array}{ll}\text { ASY29 } & \text { 22p BSY29 } \\ \text { BA138 } & \text { 30p BSY } 95 \text { A } \\ \text { BAX16 } & 150\end{array}$

B8103
BB104
BB105 BC 107
$\mathrm{BC} 107 / \mathrm{BC}$ BC108 BC108/BC $\mathrm{BC109}$
BC109/BC179
 $\begin{array}{ll}\text { BC140 } & 11 \mathrm{p} \text { BZY88C8 } \\ \text { BC147 } & \text { 10p BZY88C9V }\end{array}$


BC148/158
BC167
BC 167
BC 168


| BC 1690 | $12 p$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| BC 177 | 10 |
| BC 178 | 13 p |
| BC |  |
| BC |  |

BC 178
BC 182




 BC238/308

| BC 257 |
| :--- |
| BC 258 |
|  |

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { BC258 } & \text { 9p BZX61C } 20 \\ \text { BC259 } & 90 \text { CA } 3004\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lr}\text { BC259 } & \text { 8p CA } 3004 \\ \text { BC307 } & \text { 9p CA } 3005 \\ \text { BC } 308 & \text { 12p CA } 3014\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { BC308 } & \text { 12p CA3011 } \\ \text { BCY } & 10 \mathrm{D} \text { CA } 3013\end{array}$
BCY31
BCY31
BCY32
$\mathrm{BCY32}$
$\mathrm{BCY33}$
BCY 4
BCY 38

\section*{ELECTROLYTIC AXIAL LEADS <br> | Mfu | Working Vollage | Pilce | Mid | Working Voltage | Price |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 40\% | 78. | 100 | 16 v | Sp |
| 10 | 100 r | 59 | 100 | $25 v$ | 85 |
| $2 \cdot 2$ | 25v | -200 | 100 | 40 v | 70 |
| 22 | $63 \%$ | (5p) | 100 | 63 v | 100 |
| 47 | 40v | 5p | 220 | $25 v$ | -10 |
| 10 | 25v | 5p | 220 | 40 V | 9 p |
| 10 | 63 y | C00 | 470 | $25 v$ | 120 |
| 22 | 25v | C0 | 1000 | $25 *$ | 160 |
| 22 | 40v | (60) | 2200 | $25 v$ | 30p |
| 47 | $25 v$ | IT | 4700 | 16v | 33 p |
| 47 | 40 v | 6 p |  |  | , | <br> CAP ACITORS <br> \[

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Stock values: MFD } \\
& 0.01,0.015 .0022,0.033 \\
& 0.047 .0 .068
\end{aligned}
$$

\] <br> \[

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
0.047, & 0.068, & 022 \\
0.450, & 0220
\end{array}
$$

\] <br> \[

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
0.450,0220 \\
0.450, & 220 \\
0.27
\end{array}
$$

\] <br> \[

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 033 \\
& 047
\end{aligned}
$$

\] <br> \[

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 0.68 \\
& 1.0 \\
& 1.5
\end{aligned}
$$
\] <br> CAPACITORS-POLYSTYRENE <br> Axial leads, Clear encapsulation, $5 \%$ Tolerance. 160 voll working. <br> Stoch values

100 pF 150 pF <br> $100 \mathrm{pF},{ }^{150 \mathrm{pF}, 220 \mathrm{pF},} \mathbf{3 3 0 \mathrm { pF } , 4 7 0 \mathrm { pF } , 5 6 0 \mathrm { pF } , 6 8 0 \mathrm { pF } , 8 2 0 \mathrm { pF } ,}$
$1000 \mathrm{pF}, 1500 \mathrm{pF}, 2200 \mathrm{pF}, 3300 \mathrm{pF}, 4700 \mathrm{pF}, 5600 \mathrm{pF}, 6800 \mathrm{pF}$.$1000 \mathrm{pF}, 1500 \mathrm{pF}, 2200 \mathrm{pF}, 3300 \mathrm{pF}$. $4700 \mathrm{pF}, 5600 \mathrm{pF}, 6800 \mathrm{pF}$.
Order as: "Polystyrenes" + Capacitance. <br> ALUMINIUM HEAT SINKS <br> 10DN 34p (Plain All undrilled)
10DDR 43p (Plain All dritled $2 \times$ To3) <br> LOW PRICED DIL IC HOLDERS <br> NYLON NUTS AND BOLTS <br> in high density nylon. Ideal for mounting "live" assembliespower transistors, etc. <br>  <br> OPTO ELECTRONICS-3 devices

rom out range-OCP7 <br> TEST PROBES <br> Probably the best test probes ever made. When you push a plunger a spring steel forked tongue pushes out and holds the components, release It. White you take reading <br> $E 120$ <br> RESISTORS-METAL OXIDE <br> \[
$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Mytal Oxlde resistors by Electrosil. Ultra low noise. } \frac{1}{2} \text { Wy } \\
& 2 \% \text {. Available In the range E24 between } 10 \text { ohms and } t \text { Mea }
\end{aligned}
$$

\] <br> \[

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { E24 series 1.0, 1.4, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6,1.8,2.0,2.2.2.4, 2.7.3.0, 3 3, } \\
& 3 \cdot 6,3.9,4 \cdot 3,4 \cdot 7,5 \cdot 1,5 \cdot 6,6 \cdot 2.6 \cdot 8,7 \cdot 5,8 \cdot 2,9 \cdot 1, \text { and theif dechdes. } \\
& \text { Type No. TR5 Price: 4p each } \\
& \text { Ordar as.*Matox, + waluo }
\end{aligned}
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$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Type No. TR5 } \\
& \text { Order as "Metox" + value. }
\end{aligned}
$$
\]}

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Compact size, robust construction. Ideal for clubs, hotels, restaurants, schools etc.
Inputs for almost any type of microphone

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CARTRIDGES all with standard fittings and stylii. Stereo-compatible Mono GP91/SC 98p; STERFO GP93 81.85 , Stereo Ceramic GP94 81.75 . (All at 7p each.) Comparatives ahown in List, with niore types inc. Sonotone 9TAHC, Stereo Ceramic Diamond s1.70
(7p). DIAMOSD STYLII: single tip types: Acos GP37, GP59, GP65/67, GP71, BSR
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 PICK-UP WIRE: super thin fiex screened, sheathed, TWIN 7 p per yard, 4 -core 18 sp per PICK-UP WIRE: super thin fex screened, sheathed, TWIN 7p per yard, 4 -core 19p per
yard (elther up to 6 yds. 7 p ). Over, charges paid. MICROPHONES: CRYGTAL: LAPEL 1ł", clip/hand, lead 3.5mm jack plug 39p (9p). CM20 Cream Plastic hand 58p (9p); CM70 "PLANET" Metal, tapered with neck cord, adaptor for rand el. 65 ( 11 p ); "MIC 45" Curved metal hand grip 21.10 (11p) ALL with leads. DYNAMIC: 209 Cardiold Ball. $50 \mathrm{~K} / 600 \Omega$ built in volume control, on/of switch, special 201 ft lead, the best value anywhere at $66-60$ ( 33 p ); UD130, uni-dIr mesh ball $50 \mathrm{~K} / 600 \Omega$ jack plug, cable, adaptot. 45.28 (22p); DM1R0, omni-dir, Ball mesh. 50 K , ebble adaptor, jack plug, 24.29 ( 33 p each).
 which) 86 p ( 9 p ). More speakers in List. HEADPHONFS: High resistance $2000 \Omega$ adjuatable 81.10 (11p). EARPIECES: with lead and min. 2.5 mm or 3.5 mm (state whleh) jack plug. MAGNETIC 11p. CRYSTAL ( 3.5 mm plug only) 88 p (up to 6 for 9 p siny aize). SOLDERING IRON: Slim, modern, British high speed, $8 \mathrm{t}^{\prime \prime}$, all parta replaceable, blabest qualty, fully guaranteed t1.29 (11p) TRAFSRORMERS: Sub-min $11 \times 11 \times 12 \mathrm{~nm}$. OUTPUT ( $3 \Omega$ for OC72, etc.) 16p or DRIVER 17 p (Up to 12 for 7 p ). CONFRCIITG WIRE: Packs of 5 coils, each coil 5yds. Assti. cols. SOLID CORE 18p (7p.) FLEXIBLE CORE 18p (9p). SUPER THIN Iexible for transistor wiring, etc. 18p (7p) R 2 , left 44p. With FLEXIBLE LEADS (CURLIES): With phono plug, each end, 6ft $88 p$, lift 44p. With
 pln eynch. (128R7) $2 \mathrm{t}^{\prime \prime}$ ex. pins, 78 p ( 9 p any type). MAINS NEONs, fy leads 11p. TEOA SCREWDRIVER (pocket tester) $191 p$ ( 7 p either). MAIMS BATTERY FLIMINATOR Input $240 \mathrm{v}-\mathrm{AC}$. Output 3, 41, 6, 74, 9 and 12 volt D.C. by switch selector. On/off s witch. pilot lamp, leads, plug to suit most cossette recorders, 64.13 (27p). Highly sultable for all tranaistor recelvers.
gPECTAL FOTICE-BETWEEN FEB, 22ID AND MARCH 14th SOME DELAY IN DESPATCH OR ORDERS AND REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE MAY OCCU DUE TO RECONSTRUCTION, ALL ABOVE PRICES HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO INCLUDF V.A.T, BUT FOR ALL ORDERS DESPATCEED BY US UP TO MARCH 31st, PRE-VAT PRICES AS PER LABT MONTHS ADVERTISEMENT WILL APPLY.


Fig. 8: Full size illustration of the printed circuit board, from the copper side. Small holes are drilled for component leads and the components mounted from the other side of the board.
circuit of Fig. 7 to select two 2N3823 transistors giving a similar voltage drop across the $1 \mathrm{k}!2$ resistor in the test circuit. The balanced amplifier itself will tend to level out small differences between the transistors.

Transistor $\operatorname{Tr} 4$ acts as a source follower and is used to match the output from $\operatorname{Tr} 3$ into the low impedance of the cable and the receiver input circuit. Capacitive coupling is used to the output so that if the cable is accidentally short circuited the transistor $\operatorname{Tr} 4$ in the output stage will not be destroyed.

## CONSTRUCTION

It is convenient to build the amplifier on a small circuit board and to mount it close to the tuning capacitor on the main loop frame. A suggested layout for a printed circuit board for the amplifier


Close-up of the matching amplifier and loop tuning capactlor.
is given in Fig. 8. As an alternative the amplifier may be built on a piece of Veroboard. It should be noted that the screen leads of the 2 N 3823 transistors are connected to earth.

To test the aerial system the input amplifier stage should first of all be balanced. Connect a meter between the drains of transistors Tr 1 and Tr 3 and adjust the preset resistor VR1 until the voltage is zero. The two transistors will now be drawing equal currents.

Tune in a fairly strong signal from a known direction and rotate the aerial to obtain maxinum pick up. At this point the loop should be tuned to resonance by means of the tuning capacitor as indicated by a further increase of signal when resonance is reached.

If the aerial is now rotated so that it is roughly broadside on to the direction of the station being heard a point should be found where the signal falls to a low level. A further small adjustment of VRI may enable the signal to be reduced even lower.

## THE LOOP

The loop aerial used by the writer has 12 turns on a 24 in . square frame. To reduce self-capacitance and give more turns for the same inductance the turns are spaced ${ }_{3}$ sin. apart. For the winding $14 / 0 \cdot 0076$ p.v.c. covered flexible wire is used. Tuning is by a 365 pF air spaced variable capacitor across the ends of the loop winding.

Signal pick-up for this loop with its amplifier was found to be some 20 dB up on the signal from a 30 ft . outdoor wire aerial. Using a Lafayette HE30 receiver the signal reading on the ' $S$ ' meter varied from $\mathrm{S} 9+60 \mathrm{~dB}$ at the maximum pick up point to about S 3 when the loop was rotated to the null position. The null point itself is sharp and extends over perhaps only two or three degrees.

## "Mobile" dog sledge

In the February 1973 issue of Practical Wireless on page 890 you have a little note about working amateur radio from a dog sledge, stating that this might have been the world's first QSO from a dog sledge mobile installation. I would like to point out to you that there have been a number of radio amateur contacts from dog sledges over the past years. My first contact from a dog sledge installation was made in 1938 and I am quite sure that that was not the first one in the world.

The UK expedition which some years ago tried to reach the North Pole from Alaska also carried amateur radio equipment and had a number of contacts with the outside world. A Norwegian expedition which also some years ago tried to reach the Pole from the northern part of Greenland had practically all their contacts with the outside world made by amateur radio. Both these expeditions relied on dog sledges for their transportation.

In Norway and no doubt also in other countries with similar snow conditions amateur operations from dog sledges are not infrequent, and I myself have done it many times. I thought you might be interested in knowing this. Lars R. Heyerdahl, LA6A, (Oslo 2, Norway).

## Don't get knotted!

A serious error was made by somebody when he knotted the mains input cable, as illustrated and described in the text on the battery eliminator (on pages 920 and 921).

This can be very dangerous and is specifically outlawed by the Institute of Electrical Engineers in their published regulations.

If a cable is rapidly bent from a straight to a highly twisted configuration, as often occurs when an item is knotted and the knot pulled tight rapidly, the core material may suffer from local fatigue causing cracking of the material. The cracking acts as a resistance to the current flowing through the appliances, hence
local heating vecurs.
The error, though dangerous is so common that $M$. Wallis could be excused it, provided the sug. gested warning is printed.

I would suggest that one of the plastic cable clamps, to secure mains leads, should be used. S. A. East, (Enfield, Middlsex).

## Midget radio phones

Over the Christmas holiday I assembled the Practical Wireless midget radio, lashed it to the head-band of some wartime crystal 'phones and got good listening for radios 2 and 4 and others between.

The hospital wards being quietish, I set off on some market research; men and women patients listened and all said that such lead-less headphones would be much appreciated, since they currently roll about and pull out the lead, and also cannot use 'phones when sitting out in the middle of the ward. They need to be lighter than my prototype, perhaps built onto a stethophone; and as not a few are hard of hearing, a bit more volume is needed. If we want Radio Humberside or television sound (the ward set provides vision only) we should need something more sophisticated I suppose. Also an experienced Charge Nurse said if 'phones are not on leads I shall need to put them on chains!

Incidentally, when walking home across the common in the fog the wireless 'phones directionality helps personal align-ment!-Dr. H. F. Barnard, Pathologist East Riding Group Laboratory, Westwood Hospital, Beverley, Yorks. HUl7 8BU .

## 25 years of transistors

I was especially interested in Mr. R. Collins's article, 25 Years of the Transistor, because he attributed the research and development that led to it to the Bell Company's need for a substitute for the valve in the telephone service, in the 1940's.

I think that there must have been a lot that went before because men were looking for a substitute for the valve as early as

1920, and soon after, in the "Amateur Wireless" of those days. an account was published of a Russian scientist who was experimenting in making crystals perform all the functions of valves.

I remember this well because, as a schoolboy, I put this down as my own scientific basis for an application for an Experimenter's Licence.

Unfortunately, 1 went to New Zealand afterwards, and lost touch with radio, but I wonder if any other reader can recall what, if any further developments there were in those experiments.-John Pinches (London, N.W.7).
[ A semiconductor substitute for the valve is now in production. It has improved characteristics and longer life and uses field effect transistor principles. This device, called a FETRON, will be described in full in next month's Practical Wireless.]-Editor

## CQ! Gambia

We have been asked by the General Manager of the RSGB to publicise the following letter received by him:-

Whilst on a visit to West Africa recently, I was able to visit the transmitting station of Radio Gambia. I was asked to make an appeal to British S. W. listeners to report to them any reception of Radio Gambia in Britain.

The point is that they have received reports and QSL cards from Australia and America, but would very much like to hear from any British listener. I understand that the transmissions are as follows:-

Radio Gambia, $4 \cdot 82 \mathrm{MHz}$ in the 60 metre short wave band.
They tell me the best time for a reception would be between $10.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. and $11.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. George Wallace, M.P. (House of Commons).

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State 3 or 8 or 15 ohm . (As illustrated) With flared tweeter cone and ceramic masnet. 10 watts.
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| OA2 | 0.40 | 6AR6 | 0.65 | 6 Fb | 0.75 | 6Y6G | 0.80 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EF95 | 0.40 | （3231 | 0.40 | PFAIA | 100 | 1301 | 0.55 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OAS | 0.48 | 6ARIL | 1.25 | 6F6G | 0.45 | 7 Y 4 | 0.75 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EF97 | 0.65 | GZ3＊ | 0.50 | PFLS00 | 0－85 | ${ }^{1} 1403$ | 070 |
| OR2 | 0.40 | 6AS5 | 0.50 | 6 Fll | 0.50 | 9BW6 | 0.70 |  |  |  |  | $1 / 4$ |  | E8 |  | EF98 | 0.75 | O233 | 0.75 | PLa3 | 040 | 10404 | 0.70 |
| OB3 | 0.70 | 6AB7G | 0.85 | 6 F13 | 0.50 | 10c2 | $0 \cdot 60$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EF183 | 0.80 | G1234 | 0.60 | Plasi | 0.55 | 1rol | 0.80 |
| OC3 | 0.40 | 6AT8 | 0.88 | ${ }^{6 \times 14}$ | 0.70 | 10 Dl | 0.65 |  |  |  |  |  |  | ， |  | EF184 | 0.85 | HABCs0 |  | PL\＆I | 050 | UABC＇so |  |
| OD3 | 0.40 | 6AU6 | 0.80 | 6 Fl 15 | 0.65 | 10D2 | 0.55 |  |  |  |  |  |  | ， |  | EF804 | $1 \cdot 25$ |  | 0.55 | PLA： | 0.45 |  | 040 |
| 1 BSGT | 0.45 | 6AV6 | 0.40 | 6 F 18 | 0.50 | 10F1 | 0.75 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EK90 | 0.82 | HK90 | 0.50 | PLosit | 0.45 | TAF41 | 0.70 |
| 1 LA | 0.85 | 6AW8A | 0.65 | 6 F 23 | 0.90 | 10 F 9 | 0.65 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EL33 | 1.50 | KT6i | 2.35 | PLS4 | 0.40 | I＇AF42 | $0 \cdot 60$ |
| 1 R 4 | 0.50 | 68A6 | 0.88 | 6 F 24 | 0.80 | $10 \mathrm{Fl8}$ | $0 \cdot 60$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EL34 | 0.50 | KT88 | 2． 25 | PL30： | 0.95 | $1 \cdot \mathrm{H} 41$ | 0.85 |
| 1 Rs | 0.45 | 6BE6 | 0.82 | 6 F 25 | 1.00 | 10LI | 0.60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EL36 | 0.50 | N78 | 1.60 | PL504 | 0.75 | rbisl | 0.55 |
| 184 | 0.30 | 6BF6 | 0.55 | $6 \mathrm{~F}^{2} 26$ | 0.85 | 10 LDll | 0－70 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | LL337 | 170 | PABCinoo | 0.40 | PL508 | 0.80 | EBCRI | 0.45 |
| 185 | 0.80 | 6BH6 | 0.75 | 6 F 28 | 0.70 | 10P18 | 0.75 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EL41 | 0.75 | PCRA | 0.60 | PL509 | $1 \cdot 10$ | ［BFR0 | 0.40 |
| 1 T 4 | 0.80 | 6BJ6 | 0.55 | 8GK6 | 0.60 | 12AB5 | 0.70 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ELS1 | 0.55 | PC88 | 0.80 | PLK01 | 1.00 | ＂BFR9 | 0.40 |
| $1{ }^{1} 4$ | 0.40 | 6BK7A | 0.75 | 6J4 | 0.60 | 12AC6 | 0.60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | EL83 | 0.50 | PC9： | 0.05 | PLRO： | 0.95 | UBLI | 0.70 |
| 1US | 0.75 | 6BN5 | 0.43 | 6 J 5 GT | 0.40 | 12AD6 | 0.60 | 30 A 5 | 0.80 | 50CD60 | 1.20 | DL96 | 0.55 | ECC88 | 0.40 | EL84 | 0.25 | PC97 | 0.50 | PM84 | 0.60 | $1{ }^{1+} \mathrm{BL} 21$ | 0.70 |
| 1 V 2 | 0.55 | 6BN6 | 0.60 | 6J6 | 0.80 | 12AE6 | 0.60 | 30AE3 | 0.40 | 50EH5 | 0.65 | DM70 | 0.60 | ECC89 | 0.50 | EL85 | 0.48 | PC900 | 0.48 | PY31 | 0.35 | 189\％ | 0.45 |
| 1×2B | 0.55 | 6BQ5 | 0.25 | 6J 7 | 0.45 | 12AL5 | 0.55 | 30 Cl | 0.80 | 50L6G | 0.80 | DM160 | $0-88$ | ECC91 | $0 \cdot 30$ | EL86 | 0.40 | PCEX4 | 0.40 | PY33 | 0－63 | UC\％36 | 0.45 |
| 2D21 | 0.40 | 6BR8 | 0.75 | 6 K 417 | 0.60 | 12AQ5 | 0.50 | 30 Cl 5 | 1.00 | 85A2 | 0.55 | DY51 | 0.55 | ECC189 | 0.65 | EL90 | 0.42 | PCC85 | 0.40 | PY\％ | $0 \cdot 40$ | ITSF80 | 0.70 |
| 3A4 | 0.45 | 6B87 | $1 \cdot 35$ | 6K6GT | 0.75 | 12AT6 | 0.40 | 30 C 17 | 1.10 | 90 AG | 2.40 | DY86 | 0.35 | ECC807 | 1－00 | EL95 | $0 \cdot 35$ | PCesk | 0.55 | PYM | 0．30 | UCH21 | $0 \cdot 80$ |
| 3 A5 | 0.75 | 6BW6 | 0.90 | 6K7 | 0.48 | 12AT7 | $0-40$ | 30 Cl 8 | 0.90 | 90 AV | 2.50 | DY87 | 0.36 | ECF80 | 0.85 | EL．821 | $0 \cdot 60$ | PCCAg | 0.55 | PY＊ 2 | 0.35 | T1：H42 | 0.70 |
| $3 \mathrm{BP1}$ | 8.50 | 6BW7 | 0.90 | 6K89 | 0.45 | 12AU6 | 0－45 | 30 Fs | 1.00 | 90 Cl | 0.75 | E88CC | 0.70 | ECF82 | 0.35 | EL822 | 1.40 | Pectes | 0.60 | PY83 | 0.38 | TCHE1 | 0.40 |
| 384 | 0.40 | 6BX6 | 0.25 | 6 K 25 | 0.75 | 12AU7 | 0－88 | 30 FL 1 | 0.80 | 90CV | 2.40 | E180F | 1.00 | ECF804 | 1.65 | ELL80 | 0.75 | PCC805 | 0.95 | PY\％ | $0 \cdot 40$ | （TCLRI | 0.60 |
| 3 V 4 | 0.65 | 6826 | 0.45 | 6L6GT | 0.55 | 12AV6 | 0－45 | $30 \mathrm{FL12}$ | 1.10 | 807 | 0.50 | E810F | 2.90 | ECH42 | 0.75 | EM34 | 1.00 | PCC80 | 0.95 | PY800 | 0.47 | UCLsa | 0.35 |
| 6R4GY | 0.75 | 6 C 4 | 0.35 | 6LT | 0.45 | 12AV7 | 0.70 | 30 FL 14 | 0.90 | 813 | 4.00 | EABC80 | 00－38 | ECH81 | 0.80 | EM71 | 0.80 | PCF80 | 0.80 | PYR01 | 0.50 | ${ }^{\text {ICla }} 3$ | 0.65 |
| 5U4G | 0.40 | 6C5GT | 0.55 | $6 \mathrm{L18}$ | 0.50 | 12AX7 | $0-33$ | 30 Ll | 0.40 | 866A | 0.85 | EAF42 | 0.60 | ECH83 | 0.45 | EM80 | 0.45 | PCFP： | 0.35 | P730 | 0.38 | リ「9 | 0.85 |
| 5 V 4 G | 0.50 | 6CB6 | 0.40 | 6 LD 20 | 0.50 | 12AY7 | 0.75 | 30L15 | 0.85 | 5642 | 0.70 | EbC33 | 0.60 | ECH84 | 0.45 | EM81 | 0.60 | PCFR4 | 0.60 | QQVo： |  | リF1 | 0.80 |
| SY3GT | 0.45 | 6CD6GA |  | 6N7GT | 0.65 | 12B4A | 0－65 | 30 Lk 7 | 0.85 | 6080 | 1.75 | EBC41 | 0.65 | ECL80 | 0.50 | EM83 | 0.50 | PCF86 | 0.60 |  | 2.25 | 1F41 | 0.65 |
| 523 | 0.75 |  | 1.80 | 6 P 26 | 1.50 | 12BA6 | 0.45 | 30 P 12 | 1.00 | 6146 | 1.60 | EBC81 | 0.38 | ECL81 | 0.50 | EM84 | 0.35 | PUF87 | 110 | QQios |  | UF4＊ | 0.65 |
| BZ4G | 0.45 | 6CG7 | 0.60 | 6P28 | 0.65 | 12BA7 | $0-50$ | 30 P 19 | 0.95 | 6146B | 2.50 | EBF80 | 0.40 | ECL8： | 0－35 | EM85 | 1.00 | PGF80］ | 0.50 |  | 1.25 | TF43 | $0 \cdot 65$ |
| $6 / 30 \mathrm{~L} 2$ | 0.90 | 6CH6 | 0.60 | 6Q7 | 0.50 | 12BE6 | 0.50 | 30 PL 1 | 0.95 | 6360 | 1.25 | EBF83 | $0 \cdot 40$ | ECL83 | 0．70 | EM87 | 0.70 | PCF802 | 0.50 | QUVO3 | －20A | UF80 | 0.85 |
| $6 \mathrm{AB4}$ | 0.45 | 6CL6 | 0.60 | 68A7 | 0.45 | 12BH？ | 0．50 | 30 PL 13 | 1.10 | 6939 | 2.25 | EBF89 | 0.82 | ECL84 | 0.65 | EN91 | 0.40 | PCFR05 | 0.90 |  | 5．25 | UF85 | 0.40 |
| 6AF4A | 0.60 | 6CU6 | 0.80 | 68c7 | 0.45 | 12BY7 | 0．65 | 30PL14 | 1.25 | 7199 | 0.85 | EBL31 | 1.50 | ECL85 | 0－55 | EY51 | 0.40 | PCFR06 | 0.75 | TTッ1 | 8.40 | UF89 | 0.40 |
| 6AGS | 0.25 | 6CW4 | 0.70 | 68 K 7 | 0.50 | 12 K 5 | 1.00 | 35A3 | 0.60 | 7360 | $2 \cdot 20$ | EC53 | 0.50 | ECL86 | 0.40 | EY80 | 0.75 | PCF808 | 0.90 | TT 2 | 3.50 | UL41 | 0.65 |
| 6 6al 7 | 0.45 | 6CY5 | 0.50 | 68L7GT | 0.45 | 12K7GT | T0．50 | $35 \mathrm{A5}$ | 0.75 | 7686 | 1.50 | EC86 | 0.60 | ECLL800 |  | EY81 | 0.40 | PUH200 | 0.70 | 118／20 | 0.75 | ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~L} 84$ | 0.48 |
| 6AH8 | 0.60 | 6 CY 7 | 0.75 | 68N76T | T0．45 | 1297GT | 0.45 | $35 \mathrm{B5}$ | 0.65 | 7895 | 1.50 | EC88 | 0.60 |  | 2．20 | EY83 | 0.55 | PCL81 | 0.50 | 125 | 0.85 | $1{ }^{1} \mathrm{M} 84$ | 0.80 |
| 6AJ8 | 0.30 | 6 D 3 | 0.55 | 68Q7 | 0.50 | 128R7 | 0.50 | 35 C 5 | 0.60 | A2293 | 2.20 | EC90 | 0.35 | EF37A | 1.00 | EY86 | 0.40 | PCL82 | 0.35 | U2f； | 0.85 | UYIN | 0.50 |
| 6 AK5 | 0.40 | 6DC6 | 0.80 | 68R7 | 0.50 | 20D1 | $0 \cdot 60$ | 35 D 5 | 0.75 | AZ1 | 0.60 | EC92 | 0.45 | EF40 | 0.50 | EY87 | 0.43 | PCL83 | 0.65 | U31 | 0.70 | ［YY11 | 1.00 |
| 6AK6 | 0.60 | 6DK6 | 0.60 | 6 68 | 0.88 | 20L1 | 1－10 | 35 LGGT | T0．75 | Az31 | 0.55 | EC93 | 0.60 | EF41 | $0 \cdot 65$ | EY88 | 0.43 | PCLL4 | 0.45 | 1138 | 6－50 | IY41 | 0.48 |
| 6 6L3 | 0.48 | 6DQ6B | 0.75 | 6U4GT | 0.70 | 20 Pl | 0.50 | 35W4 | $0 \cdot 40$ | CBL1 | 0.90 | ECC35 | 2.00 | EF42 | 0.70 | EZ40 | 0.50 | PCL86 | 0.45 | U5\％ | 0.40 | UY84 | 0.50 |
| 6AL5 | 0.28 | 6D84 | 1.25 | 6U5G | 0.75 | 20 P 4 | 1－10 | 35 Z 3 | 0.75 | CBL31 | 1.00 | ECC40 | 0.70 | EF80 | 0.30 | EZ41 | 0.75 | PCL88 | 1.25 | U75 | 0.40 | UY85 | 0.40 |
| 6AM5 | 0.40 | 6 EA8 | 0.65 | 6U8A | 0.48 | 20 P 5 | 1.20 | $35 \mathrm{Z4G}$ | 0.40 | CY31 | 0.50 | ECC81 | 0.40 | EFP5 | 0.85 | EZ80 | 0.28 | PCL800 | 1.10 | U7＊ | 0.40 | W729 | 0.75 |
| 6AM6 | 0.87 | 6EH7 | 0.80 | 6V6GT | 0.45 | 25C5 | $0 \cdot 60$ | 35Z59T | T0．70 | DAF96 | 0.50 | ECC82 | 0－38 | E F86 | 0.80 | EZ81 | 0.89 | PCL801 | 0.95 | U14） | 0.75 | Y63 | 0.75 |
| 6AQ5 | 0.48 | 6 EJT 7 | 0.85 | $6 \times 4$ | 0.40 | 25L6GT | 0.50 | 50as | 0.80 | DF96 | 0.50 | ECC83 | 0.33 | EF89 | 0.28 | GT1C | 8.00 | PCL805 | 0.50 | U201 | 0.50 | 28030 | 135 |
| $6 A Q 6$ | 0.70 | 6EW6 | 0.70 | 6X5GT | 0.45 | 2524 G | 0－35 | $50 \mathrm{B6}$ | $0 \cdot 70$ | DK92 | 0.70 | ECC84 | 0.80 | EF91 | 0.87 | GY501 | 0.70 | PD500 | 1.80 | U281 | 0.55 |  |  |
| 6ARE | 0.55 | 6 F 1 | 0.75 | 6X8 | 0.65 | $25 \mathrm{Z6GT}$ | 0.75 | 50 C 5 | 0.60 | DK96 | 0.60 | ECC85 | 0.40 | EF92 | 0.85 | G230 | 0.45 | PF86 | 0．70 | U2K\％ | 0.55 |  |  |

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BBC－ITV－FM AERIAI
BBC（band 1）Wall S／D $2 \cdot 00$ ．LOFT inverted ＇T＂ $1 \cdot 25$ ．EXTERNAL，＇H＇array only $3 \cdot 00$ ． ITV（band 3） 5 element loft array $2 \cdot 50$ ． loft $1+5$ ． 5 ． $1+7.50$ WALL \＆CHIM－ NEY UNITS ALSO AVAILABLE．Pre－amp from $3 \cdot 75$ ．COMBINED U．H．F．－V．H．F． aerials $1+5+9 \quad 4 \cdot 00 \quad 1+5+14 \quad 4 \cdot 50$ ． $1+7+145 \cdot 00$ ．F．M．RADIO loft S／D 1－00 3 element $3 \cdot 25$ ． 4 element $3 \cdot 50$ ．Standard coaxial plugs 9np．Coaxial cable 5np yd． Outlet box 30np．P．D．all aerials 50np． Accs．30nd．C．W．O．Min．C．O．D．charge 25np．Send 5np for fully illustrated lists．

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W$E$ are running out of frequencies. I know we have certain "Amateur Bands," but some of these are on a shared basis, i.e. we can only use them provided we are not a nuisance to other non-amateur stations using the band.

Many will remember when 40 metres was 300 kHz wide-it's now 100 kHz wide and intruders still try to drive us off this remaining r.f. island. The only real answer to amateur radio survival is intelligent activity. With a band full of active enthusiasts, intruders will think twice about taking on our "QRM". Those that do would find a few hundred amateurs from dozens of different locations and countries, all suddenly doing tests on that particular frequency. Whether amateur radio loses any more of its r.f. spectrum or indeed a complete amateur band, is entirely up to the people who practise and enjoy our hobby.

A topical example is 4 metres or 70 MHz . This band is greedily looked at by many people (nonamateurs) who would like to use the small piece of 4 metres which we still have. Activity on 70 MHz is very low from an amateur's point of view, and if activity is not increased, then the authorities may well award the entire 4 metre band to "other services". The argument could well be (and it is a valid one) that since there is so very little amateur activity on 4 metres, then you do not really need that band. So how about some logs for 4 metres?

A 4 metre converter is not a difficult thing to build and would offer a very useful intermediate step in construction practice between the h.f. bands and 2 metres. Constructing a converter for 70 MHz is not difficult but needs a little more care than units constructed for the lower frequencies. One excellent idea would be to use 70 MHz as a local net band, which would avoid the interference suffered on 160 metres top band, would keep us clear of Loran, which plagues 160 , and would increase the level of 4 metre activity dramatically. We have to start somewhere or we could well lose this band. So, 4 metre enthusiasts forward. Let's hear what you hear.

A letter from Paul Petty (Canterbury) tells of a useful information service for European stations which transmits on 80 metres between 2100 and 2200 GMT. There is a controller station which is changed daily. Monday's controller is DA1LA. On Wednesdays it is DK8FZ. The purpose of the net is to assemble and disseminate information on DX stations, i.e. future skeds.

Top band enthusiasts will be delighted to hear that G3SZA has been heard on 160 metres in Australia by a VK3 station. Alas callsigns are still changing. MP4 stations have been heard using a new call sign-A4FA. When will we have some callsign stability? And why change from MP4M to A4FA?

Another strange change is that CT1 stations are to use the prefix CT4 during the CQWPX contest

# THE AMATEUR BANDS David Gibson, G3JDG 

## Frequencies in kHz - Times in GMT

this month. Why is not made clear. First class licence holders in Japan now have two-letter suffix calls and second class licensees will use a JM suffix followed by three letters.

Old hands will be pleased to hear VR6TC on again from Pitcairn Island, and DX enthusiasts who enjoy hearing/working island stations should listen for VQ9HCS who radiates on 15 metres in the afternoons from Aldabra Island.

Robert Harpur (Shenfield) tells of two VP8 stations located in South Georgia which can be heard some evenings between $14 \cdot 125 \mathrm{kHz}$ and $14 \cdot 130 \mathrm{kHz}$. This page commonly informs of stations heard by other short wave listeners and amateurs. The gear is quoted, i.e. receivers, a.t.u. preselectors etc., in this way readers can gauge how their own performance is by direct comparison especially if the report is from someone using similar equipment. It has been suggested it would be nice to actually see some of these stations. Photographs of individual set ups would be of interest to others. Anyone got any really good, sharp photographs of the gear plus themselves. Think of the satisfaction of seeing your trusty old CR100 smiling back at you from the pages of $P W$.
Peter Franklin (Skegness) received a UNR30 receiver for Chmistmas and is busily spoiling the brute with a diet of 100 ft . end fed. A preliminary listen on eighty metres brought forth a high level of $G$ activity. Peter queries the callsign G4GJ heard testing a transmitter on $3 \cdot 8 \mathrm{MHz}$ one afternoon. Will the real G4GJ please stand up?

Another eighty metre enthusiast is ' Peter Reed (Brighton) who is the proud possessor of an FTDX401 receiver which apparently has a Japtick UFP. Sorry Peter, I know of no ointment which can cure that. Perhaps you could scrape it off with a bent screwdriver. Peter's log for eighty reads; FL8OM, HS4AGM, I5FLN, JW9QH, M1C, M1I, VE1AIH, VE1IE, VS6DO, VQ9R, W1AA, W1KET, W2APU, W2PV, W3WJD, YA1AH, ZL4KE, ZS1MH, ZS3GH, 5X5N, 9G1DY, 9H1C, 9H5D, all on s.s.b.

Stephen Mayer (Poole) has a CR70A receiver fed with a 90 ft . wire. This set up brought in stations from most European countries. From further afield; PY2ZAT, W4AG, W5QGZ, all on eighty metres.
Great rejoicing in South Yardley where David Sharred has found that his blood pressure and country score have increased in direct proportion to the arrival of a new CR150/2. This, together with sharp ears (no, he's not Mr. Spock) and a 140 ft . end fed raised these on $3 \cdot 8 \mathrm{MHz}$; CT2BG, FP8CT, K1DQV, VE1ADV, VE3CDP/W9, VE7SV, W1CF, W4CC, W5SR, W5SW, WA9PRO, ZL3GS, 4X4UF, 5X5NK, 5X5XM, 9HIC.

[^1]

MONTHLY NEWS FOR DX LISTENERS HE first topic for this month is that of aerial wire. In the February column I asked if anyone knew of a good source for aerial wire. The number of replies was very pleasing and I must apologise for not being able to answer them all personally.

In general, your answers seem to bear out my opinion that it is becoming more difficult to find supplies of good quality aerial wire. The wire which I have always used in the past is that manufactured by a firm called 'Aerialite'. This wire consists of seven strands of copper with very strong insulation which is ideal for the purpose.

Mr. A. E. Halladay informs me that this is still available from a shop called 'Al Radio Components' of 14 The Borough, Canterbury, Kent. The wire is available in lengths of 25,50 or 75 feet and is very reasonably priced at $14 \mathrm{p}, 22^{1}{ }_{2}$ p and 29 p respectively. A charge of $6 p$ is made for post and packing.

Mr. David Porter writes to say that a firm called Chas. H. Young Ltd of $170-172$ Corporation Street, Birmingham, B4 6UD sells Stranded $7 / .029$ and $32 / 0 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~mm}$ Insulated wire in 140 foot lengths for $£ 1 \cdot 87$. This firm is also a good source for aerial insulators and dipole centre pieces.

Mr. A. A. Smith of Preston in Lancashire suggested the use of a particular type of G.P.O. Telephone wire. This consists of a single strand of steel wire which is covered with a film of copper and then a layer of insulation. It is usually supplied as a twin cable, similar to lighting flex, but this is easily split into two separate wires. The advantage of this wire is the superior strength of the steel core. No supplier is known but the wire should be available from Surplus Stores.

A preselector is basically an r.f. amplifier and, as such, it will improve the performance of almost any receiver. Many receivers do not have an r.f. amplifier stage, the first stage being the mixer and it is with these sets that the most significant improvement in performance will be obtained. If the receiver has one or more r.f. stages incorporated the improvement will not be so marked.

The preselector usually provides a gain of 30 dB , which in simple terms is a gain of 32 times, this gain being very useful in the reception of weak signals.

It is worth noting that the most common source of lost efficiency in a receiving system is a mismatch between components of the system. The three common components are the aerial, the preselector and the receiver. In the simplest case of aerial and receiver it is essential to have a good match between the two. If a preselector is added there must be a good match between the aerial and the preselector and also between the preselector and receiver.

# THE BROADCAST BANDS Malcolm Connah <br> <br> Freauluncies in kHz - Times in GinT <br> <br> Freauluncies in kHz - Times in GinT READERS' LOGS 

The first $\log$ comes from Raymond Mowll, who enquired about preselectors, his equipment is a Trio 9R59DS and 100 feet of wire. The lack of a preselector did not prevent him from hearing:
5047 Togo, French news and music at 2250.
7120 Kiev, with Mailbag programme at 0045.
7180 BBC, Tebrau, Malaysia relay at 1720.
9655 R. Damascus, Syria, in English at 2040. 11710 RAE, Argentina with music at 2330.
11955 FEBA, Seychelles in English at 1745. 15140 R. Havana, Cuba, commentary at 2100. 15375 R. Nederland, Bonaire, English at 1830.
R. M. Witney of Braintree has been active again with his Skywood CX-203 receiver and 110 foot longwire hearing the following stations:
11730 Radio Ceylon at 0140.
11815 Trans World Radio, Bonaire at 0055.
15165 Radio Denmark at 2000.
15448 Radio Nacional de Brazilia in Spanish at 0225
Peter North of Southport has sent in his first report to the column using his Heathkit RG-1 receiver and 24 foot long-wire to hear:
4979 R. Rumbos, Venezuela in Spanish at 0430.
4995 R. Brazil Central in Portuguese at 0030.
5075 R. Sutatenza, Colombia, Spanish at 0130.
9550 RTB, Belgium in English at 0050.
9730 ETLF, Ethiopia in English at 0400.
9745 R. Baghdad, Iraq in English at 1930.
11710 RAE, Argentina in English at 2300.
11720 R. Nacional de Brazilia in English at 2230.
11805 R. Globo, Brazil in Portuguese at 0030.
11860 R. Canada International, English at 2115.
11880 R. Ankara, Turkey in English at 2200.
11930 WIBS, Grenada in English at 2030.
11955 FEBA, Seychelles in English at 1730.
15300 HCJB, Quito, Ecuador in English at 1900. 15345 R. Kuwait in English at 0500.

Reports should arrive by the 15 th of the month and be addressed to me at 59 Windrush, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 7DT.


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denser. conser. gold blocking. Size $9 \times 7 \times 4$ din. approx. Ess gollow instructions and diagrams.
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Price and Easy Buik Plana 25D (FREE with parts) Earpiece with plug and switched socket for private

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(Overseas P. \& P. \& 1 )
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& \text { MW, LW, Trawler Band } \\
& \text { with extended M.W. }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
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& \text { band for easier tuning }
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7 stages 5 transibtors and 2 dioles,
tone moving coll speaker. Attractive black and gold case. Size $\delta \& \times 1 \dagger \times 3+\frac{1}{2}$. Easy bulld plang and parts price list 10 p (FREE with parts).



Hand. Extra Medium wa voband providea easler tuang of Redio Luxenibourg, etc. Bullt in territo rod merlal for MW and LW. Retractable section 24 in . chrome plated telescoplo aerlal for $8 W$. Socket for Car Aerlal.
Powerful push-pull output. 7 transintors and 2 diodes, Powerful puah-pull output. 7 transintors and 2 dlodea, Ane cone moving coll apeaker. Alr apaced ganged change controls. Attractive case with carribing handle 8 ze $9 \times 7 \times 4 \mathrm{~h}$. appros. Easy to follow instructions and dagrams. Parts price list and easy bulld plans 2sp (Fleme with parts)
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5 TRANSISTORS
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3 Tunable Wavebands: MW, LW and Trawler Band 7 stage-otransiators and 2 diodes, ferrite rod aerial. luning condenser volume control, fino tone moving coll apeaker. Attractivo case with red apeaker
grille. Slze $6 \hat{x}$ it $\times$ lifn. Easy buili plans and grille. Slze of $\times$ it $\times 1 \frac{1}{2} \ln$. Easy builid plans anc
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waveband for
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ite rod aterial and
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tages- 6 transiators and 2 atodes. Atractwe black case with red grille, dial and black knobs with polished plans and parts price list 25 s (FinNE with parts)


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bands: MW, LW

SW1, SW2, SW3
and Trawler Hand.
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THE other month we received a letter from one of our New Zealand readers who informed us that he is an ardent vintage radio equipment collector. He told us that he decided one day to cart all his gear out on to his back lawn (it's baking hot over there at this time of the year) and take some pictures for us to show in the Going Back column.

The reader, George $\mathbf{A}$. Weston, says that he would be grateful if anyone could supply him with the exact dates of the British-made sets, so, if anyone wants to contact him, the address is 179 Rosebank Road, Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand.

The items we show in our pictures have all been fully restored by Mr. Weston and where components had to be substituted, he used parts of the same vintage. Likewise, any valves used were of the same period and not later replacement types.
Picture No. (1) is a set made by McMichael. It has MH on the panel and is an all-wave superhet. There are five valves inside the unit and one outside. Date is about 1927.

Next, in picture (2) is a Philips 2516 with valves 506, E415, B443 and date of manufacture is about 1930. The matching speaker is a Baby Grand model 2028 balanced armature cone type that can either hang on the wall or sit on the table as shown.

Set No. (3) is an American "Radiola" model 12/20. Dated about 1925 it has UX199's in all stages except a UX120 as output valve. Case is walnut veneer.
The Gecophone shown in photograph (4) is a 1924 model containing 2 valves and working from batteries. There is one r.f. stage with variometer and a detector stage with condenser-controlled reaction. The valves used are " $R$ " types and the receiver is shown sitting on top of a 2-valve amplifier.

Picture (5) shows a 1924 "B.T.H." crystal set with matching phones. The "driving instructions" are shown in the lid. Also shown is a "Polar Twin" 2-valve battery receiver about 1924 vintage and a Gecophone crystal set cl924 in mahogany case.

The "B.T.H." is called "Radiola"-a name generally associated with RCA in America, indicating a tie-up between manufacturers.

An "Atwater-Kent" model 30 cl926 6-valve set is shown in picture (6). It uses grid stoppers (Cossor system) in lieu of neutralizing. This was the first single-dial model made by this company. Valves are UX201A's in all stages.

No. (7) is an American 1926 "Grebe" MV1 synchrophase 5 -valve neutrodyne battery set. Valves
used are UX201A's. The cabinet is mahogany.
A Philips Dutch 25101930 vintage 5 -valve mains t.r.f. is shown in picture (8). Valves 2 x E442 screen grid, detector E415, output C443 with a 506 rectifier. The case is a metal frame enamelled black with insert panels mottled rich deep red.

Picture (9) shows an American "Gilfillan GN1 cl926 5-valve neutrodyne battery set. This is a de-luxe model with walnut veneer case. It is 3 ft long to accommodate " $B$ " batteries. There is a meter for battery checking and three covers on the front drop down. In 1926, this set cost $£ 35$.

No. (10) shows a "Claritone" re-entry horn speaker (rear left) made by Automatic Telephone Co., England. It has a heavy cast-iron case and was made in 1924. A B.T.H. horn speaker (rear right) can be seen (c1926). This model has a brown flare with a transfer in black and gold.

Also shown are a "Brown" H4 (front left) (c 1926) a Burndept "Peter Pan" (c 192??) and a "True Music Minor" (front left)-date not known and no information available.

Photograph No. (11) shows an American cone speaker with a balanced armature. It is made from pressed steel and painted gilt. No. (12) is a cone speaker with a reed unit. It is called a "Mellotone" and the cone is made entirely of cardboard. The stem and base are wooden and the date is April 1926.

In some future Going Back articles we hope to show some more of our readers' collections of vintage radio gear.

## A reader remembers

R. J. Hall, 7 Darlington Road, Longrock, Penzance, Cornwall, comments on his early days in radio . . .
"In those days the enthusiast enjoyed winding his own solenoid coils and basket coils, building up variable capacitors from threaded brass rod, brass or aluminium plates and nuts and bolts, and even winding transformers, both r.f. and a.f. I myself have wound more than one mains transformer by hand at 7 turns per volt on a sq. inch core and made speech coil formers and wound them.

It was common practice in the early days to plan a set and build it on a 'breadboard' layout when it usually worked perfectly but on being tidied up and put into a cabinet it invariably refused to function. In those days radio was a fascinating hobby but since it has become an exact science half the fun has gone".


1 ACMichael "MH" receiver dated about 1927.


4 Gecophone 1924 vintage silting on a 2-ralve amolifier


7


10


2 The Philips 2516 dated dbout 1930 and


5 B.T.H. crystal set (1924) with Folar


8 Phatips 2510 receiver (1930).


11 American cone speaker with balanced


3 R.C. A model 20 Radiola of 1925


6

9 American Gilfillan GNt c1926.


12
The Aiwater-Kent model 30 .


## No. 47 VARICAP TUNED B.F.O.

WHEN a diode is reverse biased it becomes a low value capacitor. Integrated circuits make use of this effect as in this technology it is far easier to incorporate this than a more conventional component. What is more, the actual value of the capacitance depends on the voltage applied. Special diodes are made to make the best use of this effect and are known as Varicaps but as we have mentioned, all diodes exhibit this affect, the higher the current rating, the better the affect. We can make use of this effect where a small capacity change is sufficient such as in a b.f.o. and it is this which forms the subject of our project this month. Instead of using a variable capacitor, which would be expensive, we are using a simple potentiometer to alter the tuning.

The complete circuit is shown in Fig. 1. The tuned circuit, which operates round about 465 kHz , is made up from C4 and Ll. This is coupled to Trl to form an oscillator, C2 providing the feedback to maintain oscillation.

Ll is the Repanco DRX1 crystal set coil which has both long and medium wave windings, we only use the medium wave winding in our circuit and the connections should run to the common connection of both windings and to the tag that goes to the start of the smaller winding. In the normal state this would be tuned somewhere in the medium wave band and to increase the inductance (and also to give some control over the operating frequency) we fit a dust core into the centre of the coil.

The tuning side is accomplished by VR1, R1, D1 and Cl. If a low value capacitor is connected from the collector of the transistor to the negative line this will alter the frequency. We cannot connect the diode directly here as we would affect the d.c. operating conditions of the transistor and so we have to d.c. block this; Cl performs this function.

To alter the capacity of the diode we have to apply d.c. bias to it and this has to be varied. VRl can be almost any potentiometer from $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $500 \mathrm{k} \Omega$; all we need is a variable voltage at the slider. R1 has to be included to prevent funny things happening at the extremes of the track.

As regular readers of this column will know, we often use Veroboard but this is of less use at r.f. frequencies and straightforward drilled s.r.b.p. board is better and a layout is shown in Fig. 2. This should cause few problems; the wiring on the reverse side is shown dotted.

When the unit is switched on, the slider of VR1 should be at the centre of the track and then, with the unit near a receiver, the core in Ll should be turned until a whistle is heard on all stations. Whistles may well be heard on one or two stations but this will mean that the frequency, or an harmonic of it, are on top of that station and not on the i.f. When the correct setting has been found VRl can be adjusted to get the right sort of beat note, it has a fair range both sides of the centre frequency. On the layout a wire is shown marked "To Rx". It will not normally be necessary to make a


Fig. 1 - The crrcuil $\cdot$ instead of using a conventional variable capacitor, Dt tunes the circuit


Fig. 2: A suggested component layoul on drilled s.r.b.p. board.

## $\star$ components list


connection and this wire may not be needed but if the beat note is a bit weak this wire may be dangled among the components of the receiver's i.f. strip.


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| 23L6GT | . 18 | HabC80 | . 28 | EFYI | 12 | PC900 | 28 | PL504 | 59 | U | 7 |
| $30 \mathrm{C}^{\prime} 15$ | 58 | EBC33 | . 38 | EF92 | 26 | PCC8 4 | 27 | PY81 | 23 | Y | 7 |
| 30 Cl 7 | 73 | EBC41 | 47 | EF183 | 25 | PCC89 | 41 | PY8 | -23 | Y | 37 |
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| 30 FLLI | . 58 | ECC81 | 15 | EH90 | -33 | PCF80 | 25 | PY801 | 30 | w7\% | 49 |
| 30 FL 14 | . 67 | ECC8: | 17 | EL33 | 54 | PCF8 | 44 | R19 | -27 | 277 | 18 |
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CERALD BER NARD ${ }_{\text {Stoke Newinston, London M. }}^{\text {B3 }}$. 16



THIS instrument was designed for use with a photographic enlarger, to determine the ex posure required for any particular print. It is cheap to build and easy to use, with a range ul lo about 40 seconds.

## THE CIRCUIT

This is shown in Fig. 1. LDR is a light deperndern resistor whose resistance varies with the amount of light falling on its face. LDR and VRl form a potential divider. The potential at point $A$ is deter. mined by the setting on VR1 and on the resistance of the $L D R$, hence on the light incident on its surface. Trl and Tr2 form a Schmitt trigger. The potential at A determines which of these transistors is on and which is off.

Tr2 has a light emitting diode D1 in its collector circuit, which lights when T'r2 is conducting.

To measure the amount of light incident on the meter, VR1 is altered until the extinguishing (i.e. on-off) point of the diode is found. The setting of VR1 is thus a measure of the exposure time lequired. A knob with a lincar calibration around thet outside is used to alter VR1.

The unit is sensitive to voltage supply change. hence a zenor diode D2 is used to regulate the powel supply.

SWI is a push button switch which is depressed only when making the exposure, hence eliminating the possibility of forgetting to turn the unit off.

## COMPONENTS

Other transistors could be used for 'Trl and 'Ir? e.g. 2 N 2926 . VR1 is 50 ks . Increasing the value increases the range of the instrument but decreases its sensitivity.

Dl does not have its positive lead marked. This must be found by trial and error or by using at meter.

## CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS

The whole unit can be fitted into a small plastic box $4 I_{2} \mathrm{in}$. x 3 in . as shown in Fig. 2. Verobuad is used to mount the transistors and resistors. Two small holes can be drilled to take the LADR leads, a dab of

ris. 1. The complete circuit which is basically a Schmitt trigger.

## $\star$ components list


glue will hold it in place. Further constructional delails are not given since the layout is not critical and most constructors will find it is a simple job to assemble the instrument.

The instrument is now ready for calibrating.

## CALIBRATION

The scale is calibrated in terms of exposure as follows: a piece of clear blank film is put into the


Fig. 2: Constructional details. Fig. 3: An example of the gradia-
tlons which will appear on the
printing paper; the time of each
exposure is marked below. Fig. 3: An example of the gradia-
tlons which will appear on the
printing paper; the time of each
exposure is marked below. Fig. 3: An example of the gradia-
tlons which will appear on the
printing paper; the time of each
exposure is marked below. Fig. 3: An example of the gradia-
tlons which will appear on the
printing paper; the time of each
exposure is marked below.

enlarger; all lights in the darkroom are put out except for the enlarger light; the instrument is placed on the easel, SW1 is depressed and VR1 is adjusted so that the diode light just goes from on to off. The reading on the scale is noted. (It is important that the scale reading is always taken from on-to-off since the off-to-on reading is different, owing to hysteresis in the Schmitt trigger.)

A narrow strip of paper is then used for a test strip. Parts of the paper are exposed in multiples of two seconds. The developed strip will look like Fig. 3. There is a gradual transition from light to black. The first black stripe can be judged and the corresponding exposure time also. The scale reading and exposure time are then noted.

The procedure is then repeated for different light readings (scale readirgs) and a graph of scale reading against exposure time is plotted, Fig. 4.


Fig. 4: A calibrated graph relating the knob markings of 1-10 to the time.

For scale readings between 20 and 40 seconds it will be easier if the strips are exposed in multiples of 4 seconds.

A similar calibration graph must be obtained for each different type of printing paper used.

## USING THE INSTRUMENT

Having obtained the graphs, the instrument is simple to use. Place it on the easel such that a clear part of the film e.g. the margin between the frames or an unexposed frame, shines onto the LDR. Find the on-off point of the diode DI and note the scale reading. From the graph, read off the required exposure time, if the scale reading is 5 then the exposure time is 19 secs. This will give the correct exposure time for all normal negatives with full tonal reproduction.

## CONCLUSION

The instrument is cheap and easy to make, and is

$\qquad$

reasonably accurate. Its great advantage is the saving in time, since after initial calibration there is no need to make a test strip for every exposure.


25 YEARS MARCH 1973 page 993. At the foot of column three: The I.E.R.E. is publishing a collection of 20 papers in their journal on semiconductor subjects.

DIGITRONIC SOLID STATE DIGITAL CLOCK MARCH 1973 page 1009. The sentence-There is no need. . , harm a LED is to pass too high a current through it (most LEDS work operate on $10-15 \mathrm{~mA}$ ).

## Back Numbers

We regret to inform readers that owing to the closure by the Company of the department concerned it will no longer be possible to supply back numbers of Practical Wireless or Television.

Reference to past issues of the magazines may sometimes be obtained at certain public libraries who may hold bound volumes. A few libraries are said to offer a photostat service. Alternatively, we are always willing to insert "CQ"e request for specific back numbers in our "CQ" column which appears in most issues.

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# TRANSISTOR CIRCUITRY Mmpagimers <br> PART 15 <br> H.W. HELLYER \& MICHAEL HOLLIER 

## Tone control circuitry

Toward the end of the last part of this series of articles that was published, we were concerned with frequency-dependent feedback. Without being intentionally devious, we skated over some of the finer points and here shall try to keep our promise of digging more deeply into the matter of tone controls. their design and their limitations.

The utter purist will not deign to acknowledge the need for tone controls! Everything should be flat, he says. There should be, he further asserts, no need to alter the frequency response of an amplifier if all the other parts of the audio system are in order. True, but Utopia has not yet arrived, whatever the politicians promise, and there will be nasty pops and crackles from our records, hiss from our tape, peaks and troughs from many a cartridge and even worse deviations by the time the sound escapes from the loudspeakers.

Even then, we are not finished. If the little woman insists on foot-deep rugs and wall-to-wall drapes, or if your pad is scoured to its functional austerity. man, you will need same trimming of the ideally flat response to compensate for-in the first case, the premature absorption of treble, and in the second, the 'hardness' of the sound. Tone controls may be regarded as necessary evil, but as long as we are obliged to have them, let's make sure they do not detract from the best possible performance. And in so many commercial designs, they do.

## First steps

Before delving into the tone control circuit as a whole, we must take a look at the effect of the passive components with a change in frequency. Back in the days when Poppa bought his radiogram because it sounded 'mellow', the tone control was simply a network of passive components, usually across the output stage, with variation of the resistive part of a series capacitor-resistor shunt that drained away progressively more and more of the upper frequencies. It was, in other words, a variable treblecut device. One or two more enterprising makers


Fig. 74 : (a) For a simple resistive network the output shown by the voltmeter is in proportion of the ratio of the resistors to the applied input voltage. In (b) theoretically, the output should not change with frequency, giving a "stralght-line" graph. (c) Substituting a capacitor for R2 makes the output frequency dependent while (d) shows an example of the curve we might expect from a simple network such as (c) having a "slope" of $6 d B$ per octave.
fitted alternative resistor-capacitor combinations in the grid circuit of output valves, and others even went so far as to label these Bass or Treble Boost and Cut, but all such passive networks, i.e., those which do not have inbuilt amplification, must attenuate the over all signal.

The point about the passive tone controls is that the attenuation varies the frequency. Take the case of a simple resistive network, as in Fig. 74(a). If we have two resistors of equal value, fed by a signal generator, the output across the measured one will be half the input signal in amplitude, but will not change in frequency. A graph of the situation would be a straight line, as Fig. 74(b).

But if we now substitute the upper resistor with a capacitor, Cl in Fig. 74(c), we find that the measured output will be exactly half the input at only one frequency. Reactance $X_{c}=\frac{1}{2 \pi \mathrm{fC}}$ where $X_{\text {. }}$. is in ohms, $C$ in farads and $f$ is the frequency ar which the test is made, in hertz.

Working out the reactance of a $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor al 1 kHz , we get $\frac{10^{6}}{6.28 \times 1000 \times 1}=159 \mathrm{ohms}$.

But if we now measure the voltage across a similarvalue resistor, we find that instead of half the signal input, we have slightly more. Instead of our attenuator dropping the output by 6 dB (to half voltage) at 1 kHz , it will have dropped the output only 3 dB . This is because the voltage across the capacitor is $90^{\circ}$ out of phase with the voltage across the resistor. The output voltage ratio is $0.707: 1$, not $0 \cdot 5: 1$. In fact, if we alter the frequency of the generator, we will find that the measured output drops as the frequency falls. The rate of 'slope', as shown in Fig. 74(d), is 6 dB per octave, an octave being a frequency change of $2: 1$.

This 3 dB drop has a further significance when we tackle power output stages, for if the drive voltage to the amplifier fell sufficiently for the power output to drop 3 dB , this would be the well-known 'half-power-point'. This is the figure normally quoted in amplifier specifications-a point to which we shall return later. Below this -3 dB point in Fig. 74(d), the slope of the curve falls away regularly by 6 dB per octave, i.e., a ratio of $2: 1$, a reduction of output by a half each time the frequency is halved.

## Making it active

It helps to regard tone control as a method of frequency correction. The introductory remarks we have made, and references to frequency-dependent


Fig. 75: A collector-follower amplifier arranged so that its output can be measured with and without feedback.

fig. 76. The basic circuil used for tests.
feed-back in previous articles, should have prepared the regular reader for this approach. Simple tone controls are types of filters. We shall deal thoroughly with filter circuitry later, but at the moment it is necessary to observe that the 'filter' of Fig. 74(c), for example, is called a 'first order filter', having a 'slope' of 6 dB per octave. Second order filters have slopes of 12 dB /octave and third-order filters, 18 dB / octave. As we shall see, real filters, used in welldesigned audio amplifiers, should ideally have a third-order slope to be effective.

These filters are passive devices. They contain no amplifying stage or stages to put back the signal attenuated by their action. If we make a marriage of the virtual earth circuitry we talked about in Parts 12 and 13 of this series and the fundamentals of tone control circuitry touched upon in Part 11, we get an amplifier with frequency-dependent feedback, which becomes, if we correctly design it, a better tone control circuit.

First, we need what is known as an 'inverting amplifier'. If you take a look at Fig. 75, you will see that this can be a collector-follower circuit, so arranged that we can measure its gain with or without the feedback. In practice, this is a useful circuit, and the component calculation will be discussed as we go along. It is convenient to use the 24 -volt supply described in Part 13, December PW. Fig. 76 shows the circuit devised by Mike and used for tests on the prototype.

With an input from the audio generator, and an output measured with a millivoltmeter, we can measure the open-loop gain. This is the gain of the amplifier with no feedback connected. Here, a word of warning is required: in many erudite theoretical articles, 'open-loop gain' is bandied about freely, but an inspection of the circuit will often show that it would be jirtually impossible to measure it in practice. Our aim in this case is to show what we mean by the term, then, by applying the feedback we need, to modify the gain and achieve our controlled response, i.e., effect a tone control.

In our prototype, the open-loop gain, $\left(G_{u}\right)$ was 260. It is absolutely essential when carrying out these measurements to mount the circuit in a screened box, use screened input and output leads and make sure our construction is 'solid'. We use Veroboard for convenience: it allows connection of additional components while retaining the versatility of wired circuitry. We use the very convenient Norman Rose aluminium boxes, because they are inexpensive, easily worked for outlet holes, tag-strip mountings, etc., and have a simple lid which not only completes the screening but also affords an easy access for modifications.


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als valves 100 m megc ohme.
-1 watt 5 p each
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3 in
512

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { SPST 10p egy. D.F.QT. 12p each. } \\
& \text { MINIATURE NEON LAMPS }
\end{aligned}
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Data Sheet on request)
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\begin{aligned}
& 5 \mathrm{in}^{2} \times 1 \mathrm{in} \text { (plain) } \\
& \text { Vero Pins (bag of } 36 \text { ), } 20
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Vero cutter, } 45 \mathrm{p} \text {; Pin in } \\
& 0-15 \text { matrix) at } 56 \mathrm{p} \text {. }
\end{aligned}
$$

SLIDE SWITCH

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { SLIDE SWITCI } \\
& \text { SPST 10p eqn. D. } \\
& \hline \text { MINIATHRF }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
240 \mathrm{y} \text { or } 11 \text { y } 1-45 \mathrm{p}, 5 \text { pl } \mathrm{s} 4 \ddagger \mathrm{p} \text { each }
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| 12AT7 | .17 | DK96 | $\cdot$ | EF183 | . 27 | PCC805 | - 0 | 1786 | -65 | OC44 | -19 |
| 12 AO 7 | . 20 | DL35 | . 40 | EF184 | . 29 | PCF80 | . 26 | U47 | $\cdot 73$ | OC45 | -18 |
| 12AX7 | . 28 | DL92 |  | EH90 | . 88 | PCF82 | - 88 | U49 | . 70 | 0071 | . 18 |
| 19BGAC | . 75 | DL94 |  | EL33 | . 56 | PCF86 | . 46 | U52 | . 81 | OC72 | . 19 |
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## Sinclair Project 60

## Now-the Z.50 Mk. 2

## with built-in automatic transient overload protection


#### Abstract

When originally introduced the Sinctair Z.50 proved how it was possible to design and produce a popularly priced modular power amplifier having characteristics to challenge the world's costliest amplifiers. Many thcusands of Z.50's are now giving excellent service day in, day out. But we have also learned that constructors do not always use their $Z .50$ 's ideally. That is why we have introduced modifications whereby risk of damage through mis-use is greatiy reduced and performance further enhanced The 2.50 Mk. 2 has improved thermal stability. more accurately regulated D.C. limiting to ensure more symetrical output voltage swing and clipping and still less distortion at lower power. $Z .50 \mathrm{Mk} .2$ is compatible with all other Project 60 modules. and may be incorporated to advantage in existing systems. Eleven silicon epitaxial planar transistors are now used, two more than in the original $Z .50$ : circuitry has been re-designed, making this versatile high performance amplifier better than ever


$Z .30$ the power amplifier for quality and economy


## with free

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The Z 30 provides excellent facilities for the constructor requiring a high fidelity audio system of less power than that avarlable from $Z .50$ s. Using a power supply of 35 volts. Z.30 will deliver 15 watts RMS inio 8 ohms. or 20 watts RMS into 3 ohms using 30 volts. Total harmonic distortion is a tantastically low 0.02\% at 15 watts into 8 ohms with signal to noise ratio better than 70 dB unweighted. Input sensitivity 250 mV into 100 K ohms. Size $80 \times 57 \times 13 \mathrm{~mm}\left(3 \frac{1}{6} \times 2 \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}\right)$ Z.30. Z 50 and $Z .50$ MK. 2 modules are compatible and interchangeable

## Guarantee

If, within 3 months of purchasing any product direct from money will be refunded at once. Many Sinclair appointed Stockisis also offer this same guarantee in co-operation with Sinclaır Radionics LId
Each Project 60 module is tested before leaving our factory and is guatanteed to woik perfectly Should any defect arise in normal use, we will service it at once and without any charge to vou, it it is returned within iwo veats from the date of purchase. Outside this period of guarantee a small charge (typically $£ 1.00$ ) will be made No charge is made to
postage by surface mail. Air Mail is charged al cost.

Brilliant new
technical specifications
Input impedance 100 Ks 2
Input (for 30 W into $8 \Omega$ ) 400 mV
Signal to noise ratio, referred to full o/p at
30 v HT 80dB or better
Distortion 0.02\% up to 20W at 862. See curve Frequency response 10 Hz to more than $200 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$
Max. supply voltage $45 v$ ( $4 \Omega$ to $8 \Omega$ speakers) (50v $15 \Omega$ speakers only)
Min. supply voltage 9 v
Load impedance-minimum : $4 \Omega$ at $45 v \mathrm{HT}$ Load impedance-maximum : safe on open circuit


## Typical Project 60 applications

| System | The Units to use | together with | Units cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Simple battery record player | 2.30 | Crystal P.U., 12 V battery volume control, etc. | £4.48 |
| Mains powered record player | 2.30, PZ.5 | Crystal or ceramic P.U volume control, etc. | £9.45 |
| 12W. RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp for average needs | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.30 \text { s, Stereo } \\ & 60 ; \text { PZ.5 } \end{aligned}$ | Crystal. ceramic or mag P.U., F.M. Tuner. etc. | ¢23.90 |
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 \begin{tabular}{ll|ll|ll|ll}
\& 30FL12 1.10 \& 807 \& 2.40 \& E805 \& 1.10 \& ECF80 \& 0.35 <br>
30FL14 \& 0.80 \& 813 \& 0.50 \& E88CC \& 0.70 \& ECF82 \& 0.85

 

$30 \mathrm{FLL14}$ \& 0.90 \& 813 \& 4.00 \& E180F \& 1.00 \& ECF8041.65 <br>
30 LI \& 0.40 \& 866 A \& 0.85 \& E810F \& $\mathbf{2} 90$ \& ECH 42 0.75
\end{tabular}



 \begin{tabular}{ll|l}
30 PLL \& 0.05 \& <br>
30 PL 13 \& 1.10 \& 6

 30 PL 141.25 

5 A 3 \& 1.25 <br>
\& 0.60 <br>
\hline

 

A5 \& 0.75 <br>
\hline \& 0.85
\end{tabular} $\begin{array}{ll}3 \mathrm{bC5} & 0.65 \\ 35 \mathrm{DS} & 0.75 \\ & 0.75\end{array}$ 35LBGTO.75 $\begin{array}{ll}35 \mathrm{WH} & 0.40 \\ 35 \mathrm{Z3} & 0.75\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}35 Z 3 & 0.75 \\ 35 Z 4 & 0.40 \\ 35 Z 5 G T & 0.70\end{array}$



| P1'818 | 1.00 | [1301 | 0.55 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PFL200 | 0.85 | U403 | 0.70 |
| PL33 | 0.40 | U404 | 0.70 |
| PL36 | 0.55 | U801 | 0.80 |
| PL81 | 0.50 | UABC80 | 0 |
| PLS2 | 0.45 |  | 0.40 |
| PL83 | 0.45 | UAF41 | 0.70 |
| PL84 | 0.40 | UAF42 | 0.60 |
| PL302 | 0.45 | UB41 | 0.85 |
| PL504 | 0.75 | UBC41 | 0.65 |
| PL508 | 0.90 | UBC81 | 0.45 |
| PL509 | 2.10 | UBF80 | 0.40 |
| PL801 | 1.00 | UBF89 | 0.40 |
| PL802 | 0.95 | UBL1 | 0.70 |
| PM84 | 0.60 | UBL21 | 0.70 |
| PY31 | 0.35 | UC92 | 0.45 |
| PY33 | 0.68 | ICCP85 | 0.45 |
| PY80 | 0.40 | V1CFRO | 0.70 |
| PY81 | 0.30 | 16H24 | 0.60 |
| 1Y82 | 0.85 | UCH 62 | 0.70 |
| PY83 | 0.88 | UCH81 | 0.40 |
| PY88 | 0.40 | UCL81 | 0.80 |
| PY800 | 0.47 | UCLS2 | 0.85 |
| PY801 | 0.50 | UCL83 | 0.65 |
| PZ30 | 0.88 | UF9 | 0.65 |
| QQVO2- | -6 | UF11 | 0.80 |
|  | 2.25 | UF41 | 0.85 |
| QQVO3- |  | UF42 | 0.65 |
|  | 1.26 | UF43 | 0.65 |
| QQV03. | 20A | UF80 | 0.36 |
|  | 5.25 | UP85 | 0.40 |
| TTol | 3.40 | UF89 | 0.40 |
| TT22 | 8.50 | UL41 | 0.65 |
| U18/20 | 0.75 | UL84 | 0.48 |
| U25 | 0.85 | UM84 | 0.30 |
| U26 | 0.85 | UY1N | 0.50 |
| U31 | 0.70 | UY11 | 1.00 |
| U37 | 6.50 | UY41 | 0.48 |
| U52 | 0.40 | UY82 | 0.50 |
| U76 | 0.40 | UY85 | 0.40 |
| U78 | 0.40 | W729 | 0.75 |
| U 191 | 0.75 |  |  |
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